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MASTERS AT WORK

Dan Pearson designs Britain's best Lutyens garden

10 GARDENS THAT SHAPED *BRITISH DESIGN*

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EDITOR'S LETTER

This issue marks 25 years of *Gardens Illustrated* magazine. Issue one, edited by Rosie Atkins was on sale in May 1993 and since then *Gardens Illustrated* has firmly established itself as the indispensable and stylish guide to all things horticultural. Resolutely forward-looking, we continue to celebrate the most considered, useful and the best; be it cutting-edge design, essential outdoor kit or planting expertise. It's the world's leading gardens magazine, and with a global outlook.

Folly Farm in Berkshire is described by Anna Pavord as Britain's best Lutyens' garden. Over the past eight years designer Dan Pearson has been revitalising the planting there and, in the first of a new series, Anna and Dan visit the garden together to discuss its wider importance and consider how this has influenced Dan's work. The planting is subtle, nuanced and bold in part. Dan describes reimagining the garden's historical core as well as adding new areas, such as a wind garden, meadow and courtyard. It's a work of significance and note.

We Made a Garden, written by Margery Fish in 1956, describes her gardening adventures with her husband Walter at East Lambrook Manor in Somerset. Considered the epitome of an English cottage garden, with self-sowers, wildflowers and gentle abundance, East Lambrook is now Grade II listed, and it felt fitting to revisit for our anniversary issue. Plantsman Matthew Reese met the current owners and found out what has changed since Margery and Walter's time there.

The fantastical flora of Romania is little known except among select plant enthusiasts who speak about it in excited tones. Colourful, scented and humming with insects, the grasslands of southern Transylvania are among the best in lowland Europe and the native habit of many familiar garden plants including *Dianthus carthusianorum*, *Salvia nemorosa* and stachys. We look at some of the plants growing there and consider the pressures that threaten these grasslands today.

There's also a first look at the show gardens designed for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Our show guide includes work by Sarah Price, Tom Stuart-Smith and Tom Massey. We asked critics including two previous years' winners and the RHS Young Designer of the Year to evaluate the 2018 designs and to pin down which might win this year's Best in Show. You can also download the daily *Gardens Illustrated* Chelsea podcast ahead of the opening of the show for exclusive insights from key designers.

I hope you enjoy the issue,

Lucy Bellamy

LUCY BELLAMY, EDITOR

SARAH PRICE

Find out which gardens our expert panel tip to win at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show, page 99.

CONTENTS

MAY 2018

Plants

28 **Plantsman's favourites** Plantswoman Fleur van Zonneveld selects favourites for the month of May

58 **Plant profile: epimediums** With pretty spring flowers and interesting foliage these woodland plants are a useful addition to a shady corner

82 **Meadowlands** Discover the diversity of Romania's jewel-like wildflower meadows

Places

40 **Trademarks of a master** In the first of a new series Anna Pavord looks at how Dan Pearson has revitalised one of Lutyens' gardens with fresh, new planting schemes

52 **Herbal essence** Formal overtones give structure and interest to this kitchen and herb garden in Suffolk

66 **Private view** Designer Matt Keightley was asked to create a modern and vibrant parterre with a sense of both seclusion and impact

74 **The gardener's garden** How Margery Fish's legacy at East Lambrook is maintained by the garden's new owners

90 **The gardens that shaped British design** Notable designers describe the gardens that define Britain's gardening heritage

People

72 **Who's who** Award-wining designer Cleve West finds himself increasingly led by ethical concerns

146 **Hue and cry** Frank Ronan loves the blowsiness of pink flowers, particularly roses, but is at pains to get just the right shade

Chelsea Flower Show

99 **Chelsea show gardens** Discover the names and faces behind the key show gardens at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2018

110 **Critics' shortlist** Previous winners and critics pick out their hot tips

113 **What not to miss this year** The best plants and products

Design

115 **Design update** Including news from the RHS show at Malvern and a new V&A exhibition

118 **Design sourcebook** Nine of the best bespoke greenhouses

Regulars

3 **Editor's letter**

6 **Contributors**

11 **Dig in** This month: a new, bright-eyed primula, tackling Japanese knotweed and botanical art around the world, plus a round-up of what's happening at the Chelsea Fringe

25 **Kitted out** for visiting gardens and garden shows

34 **The Outsider** Horticulturist Hannah Gardner takes a trip to the Pyrenees

37 **Gardening talent** As Kew's restored Temperate House reopens, we meet the glasshouse's gardener and supervisor Scott Taylor

38 **Subscription offer** Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition of *Gardens Illustrated*

121 **Books** New books, including Kate Bradbury's latest nature-inspired title

128 **Crossword and how to buy back issues**

145 **Next issue** What's coming up in June

RICHARD BLOOM

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SEE PAGE 38

Many familiar garden plants have their provenance in Romania's landscape, page 82.

COVER IMAGE

Folly Farm
by Jason Ingram

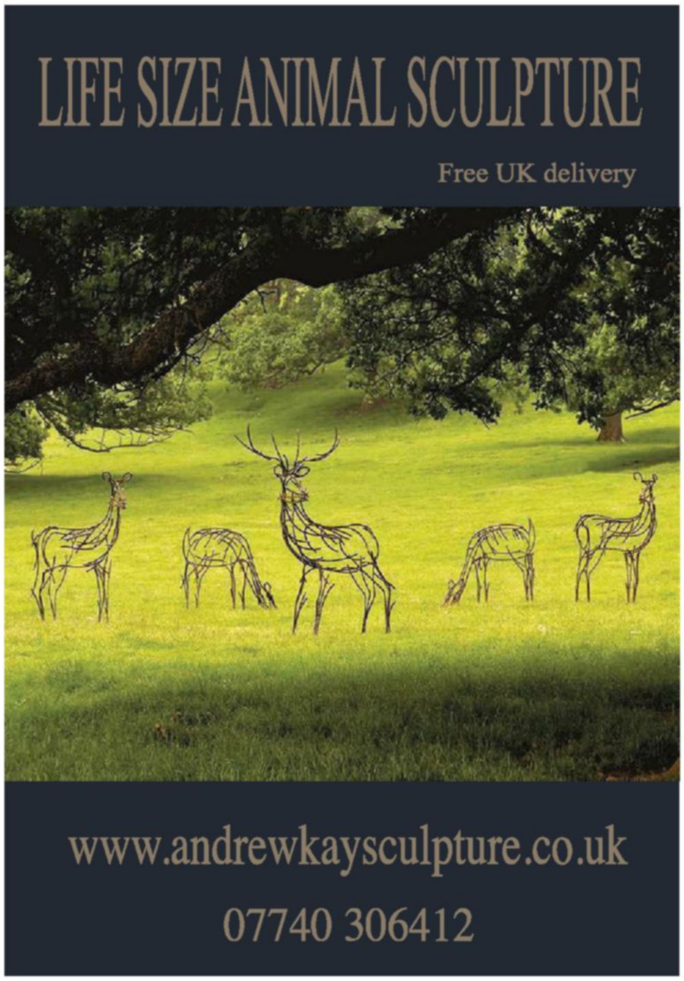
ON THE COVER

Master at work, page 40
10 gardens that shaped British design, page 90
Romania's fantastical flora, page 82
Chelsea Flower Show, page 99

EVENTS AND OFFERS

- Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition of *Gardens Illustrated* – page 38
- Enter our competitions to win VIP tickets to RHS Chatsworth Flower Show and Blenheim Palace Flower Show[†] – page 136
- Summer colour from this reader offer for special collections of *Iris sibirica* and *Hemerocallis,* from nursery Woottens of Wenhaston[†] – page 138

[†] Competitions and offers open to UK residents only



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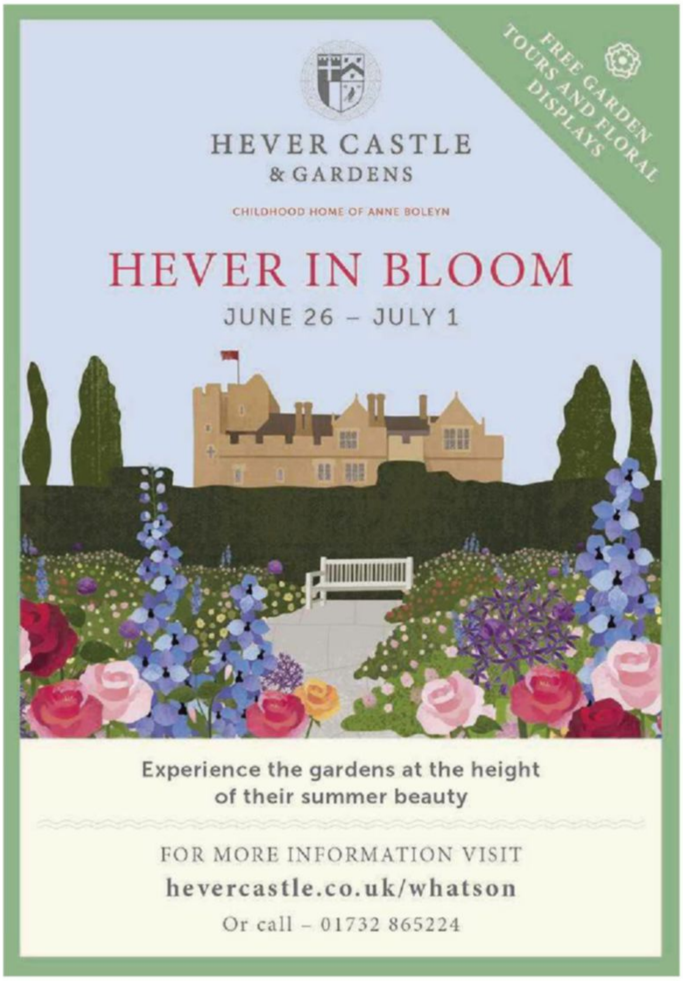

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JOHN AKEROYD
John introduces us to Romania's flora, page 82. *"I've not seen such displays of meadow wildflowers elsewhere in lowland Europe – remarkably in what is still a productive farmed landscape."*

SALLY GREGSON
Sally introduces us to the expanding world of epimediums, page 58. *"Many exciting new hybrids and species of this old favourite are appearing in our gardens."*

RACHEL VICTORIA HILLIS
Rachel illustrates Frank Ronan's column, page 146. *"Frank's column makes each month more delightful. I'm now constantly looking for changes in the garden."*

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

JAMES BASSON
James lives in the South of France where he runs Scape Design with his wife Helen, specialising in low-maintenance and dry gardens. He is a fervent advocate for creating sustainable landscapes. The winner of four Chelsea Gold medals, he was awarded Best in Show in 2017.

FERGUS GARRETT
Fergus was appointed head gardener at Great Dixter by Christopher Lloyd in 1993. He is passionate about passing on his knowledge through student and volunteer programmes at Dixter and through worldwide lectures. He was awarded an RHS Associate of Honour in 2008.

ANNA PAVORD
Anna's books include her bestseller *The Tulip* and most recently *Landskipping*. For 30 years she was *The Independent*'s gardening correspondent. In 2000 the RHS awarded her the Veitch Memorial Medal. She lives and gardens in Dorset.

DAN PEARSON
Dan is one of the UK's best-known garden designers, familiar to many through his gardening columns in the *Observer* magazine. Eight of his gardens, including the Tokachi Millennium Forest in Japan, have won awards and he was awarded Best in Show at Chelsea in 2015.

SARAH PRICE
Sarah is one of the UK's most sought-after garden designers who won worldwide recognition for her designs for the 2012 London Olympic Park. She won Gold at Chelsea in 2012 and was named 2016 Garden Columnist of the year by the GMG for her design series in *Gardens Illustrated*.

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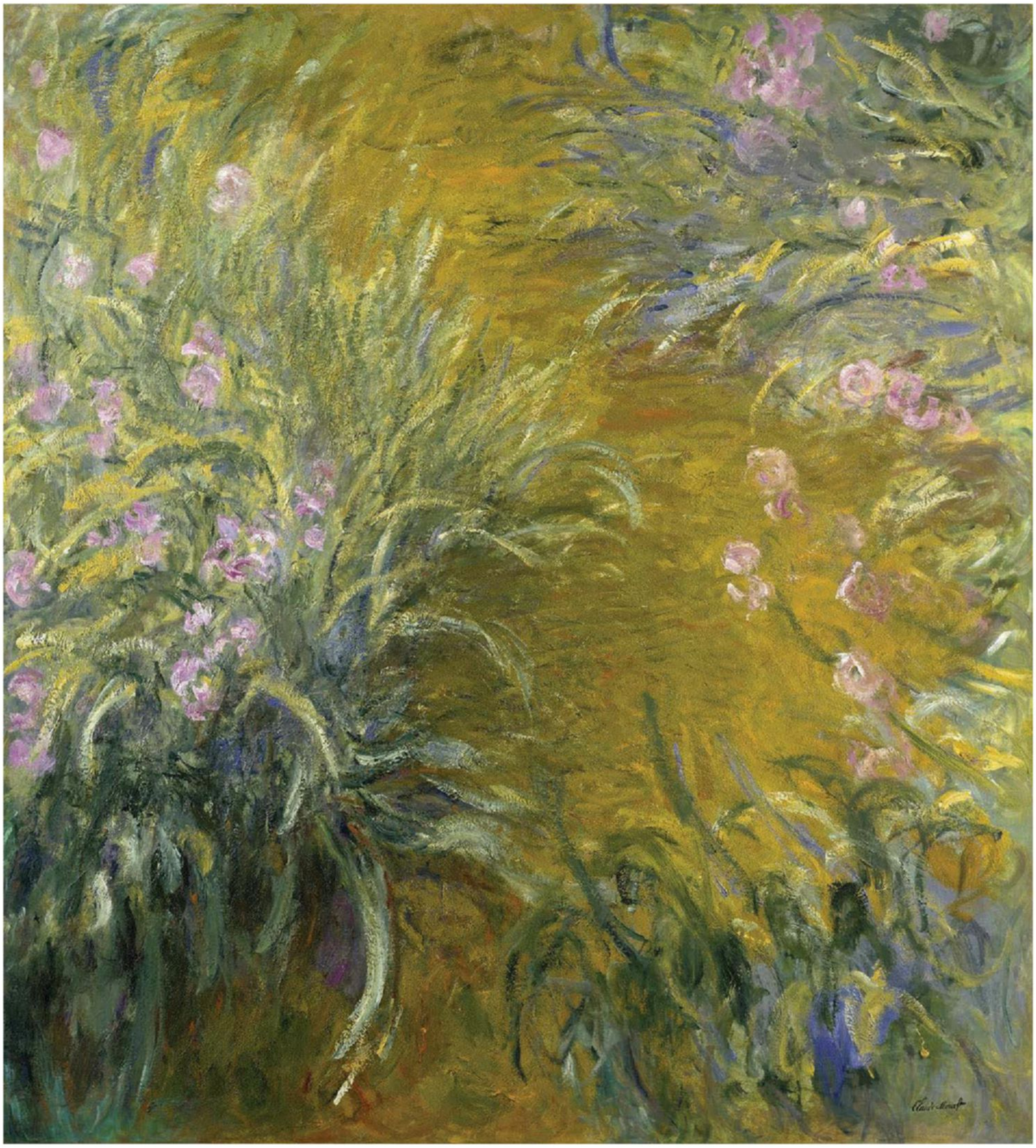
DIG IN

What's happening, where to go, what's in flower and what to buy this month



CLAUDE MONET, *THE PATH THROUGH THE IRISES*, 1914-17

LA VIE EN ROSE

A new exhibition at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, *Public Parks, Private Gardens: Paris to Provence*, explores how horticultural developments helped to reshape the landscape of France in the century after the revolution. The exhibition features 150 works by more than 70 artists, including Claude Monet, whose *Path Through the Irises* is shown above, Vincent van Gogh and Henri Matisse. A courtyard area within the exhibition has been planted in the style of a 19th-century French conservatory garden, complete with the green iron benches so typical of Parisian parks. Until 29 July. **metmuseum.org**

News

COMPILED BY ALYS HURN

TAKING CHARGE

Finding Japanese knotweed, Fallopia japonica, *in your garden can knock thousands of pounds off the value of your home and make selling or remortgaging a nightmare. If you're worried it may have invaded your property the RHS website has useful advice on how to recognise the plant and your legal responsibilities. It's recently added a section on seeking help from the professionals, which lists organisations that can help you find consultants and contractors offering knotweed removal, and can advise on buying and selling a property with knotweed present.* **rhs.org.uk**

HAYLOFT PRIMULA

If you're looking for something unusual to brighten a spring border take a look at this new polyanthus primula from Hayloft. 'Mandarin Kisses' has oak-leaved foliage and bi-coloured flowers with yellow centres and orange tips. Fully hardy, it is great for beginners as it will thrive happily in a partly shaded position. Growing to a height of 15-20cm, 'Mandarin Kisses' will look wonderful planted out in light shade, but will work just as well in a container. It flowers from March until June, and is available from June this year, ready to plant out for a display next spring. It's priced at £18 plus p&p for one 7cm plug plant or £34 for three. **hayloft-plants.co.uk**

ANIMAL MAGIC

Help encourage wildlife into your garden with Seedball's new Natural History Museum range of seed mixes. Each seed ball is made up of clay, peat-free compost and a range of carefully chosen seeds of flowers that will attract pollinating beetles, as well as insects for birds and bats to eat. The mixes have been developed with scientists at London's Natural History Museum and sales will help support the work of the museum. £5.99 per tin. **seedball.co.uk**

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KNOTWEED IMAGE BY MARK FOLLON / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO. HAYLOFT PRIMULA BY VISIONS BV, NETHERLANDS / 5-ALL PLANT BV

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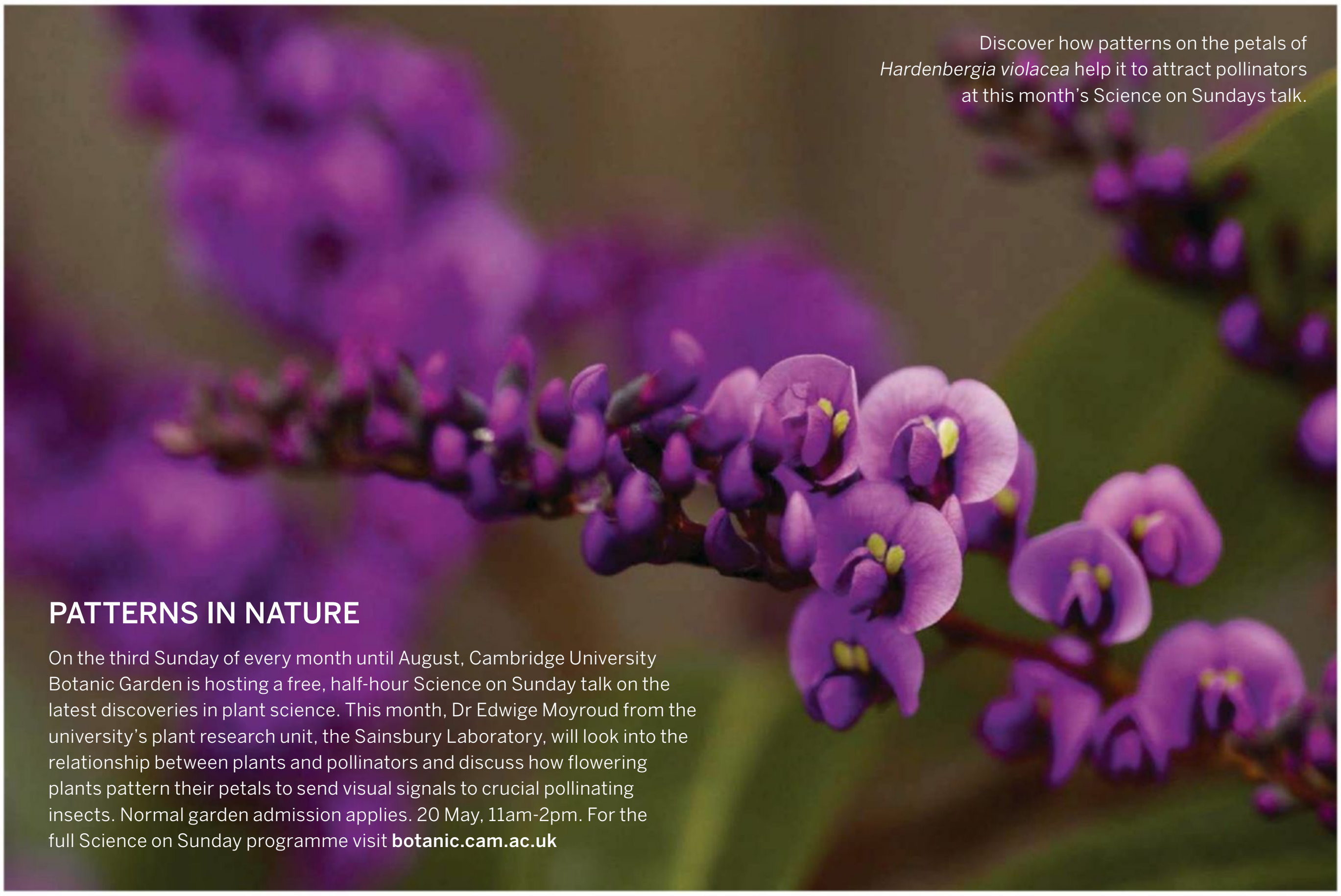


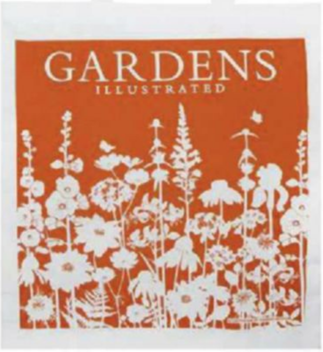
Discover how patterns on the petals of *Hardenbergia violacea* help it to attract pollinators at this month's Science on Sundays talk.

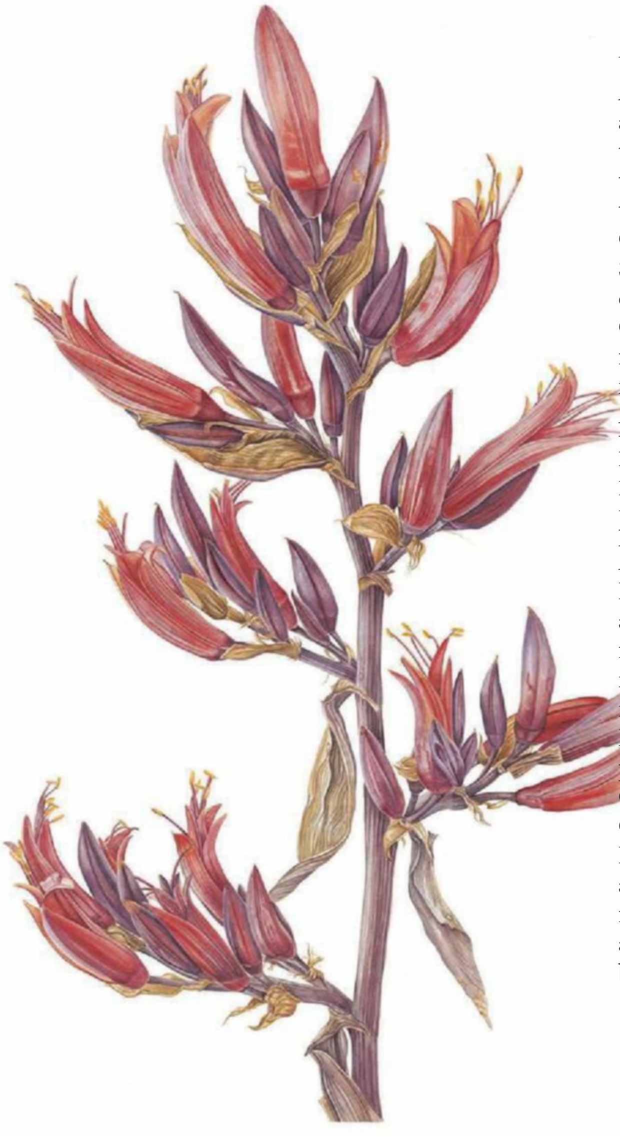
PATTERNS IN NATURE

On the third Sunday of every month until August, Cambridge University Botanic Garden is hosting a free, half-hour Science on Sunday talk on the latest discoveries in plant science. This month, Dr Edwige Moyroud from the university's plant research unit, the Sainsbury Laboratory, will look into the relationship between plants and pollinators and discuss how flowering plants pattern their petals to send visual signals to crucial pollinating insects. Normal garden admission applies. 20 May, 11am-2pm. For the full Science on Sunday programme visit **botanic.cam.ac.uk**

SHOW OFFER

Don't forget to come and say hello if you're visiting the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this month. *Gardens Illustrated* is at stand EA430, where you can buy back issues and garden sundries, and if you subscribe to the print edition at the show you'll be able to take away either photographer Claire Takacs's new book *Dreamscapes* or a Sneeboer tool – and you can carry your gift home in our new-look, orange tote bag. Turn to page 99 to find out what gardens and products to look out for at this year's show.





FLORAL WORLD

Artists from around the world are joining forces on 18 May, to create a worldwide exhibition that will highlight the beauty of the planet's plant diversity. Co-ordinated by the American Society of Botanical Artists, exhibitions in 25 countries from Costa Rica to Ukraine, will feature botanical artworks of native plants, such as the *Phormium tenax* shown left by New Zealand artist Suzy Abbott. In the UK, the Association of British Botanical Artists is taking part with the exhibition *In Ruskin's Footsteps* at the Ruskin Library and Peter Scott Gallery at Lancaster University. This will feature 40 artworks of the UK's native flora along with material relating to John Ruskin. Exhibitions are also taking place at the Shirley Sherwood Gallery at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the RHS Lindley Library. All venues are also screening a slideshow featuring around 1,000 images of artworks from all 25 countries. **botanicalartworldwide.info**

HARDENBERGIA VIOLACEA IMAGE BY HARJONO DJOYOBISONO / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO. *PHORMIUM TENAX* 'KORARI II' BY SUZY ABBOTT

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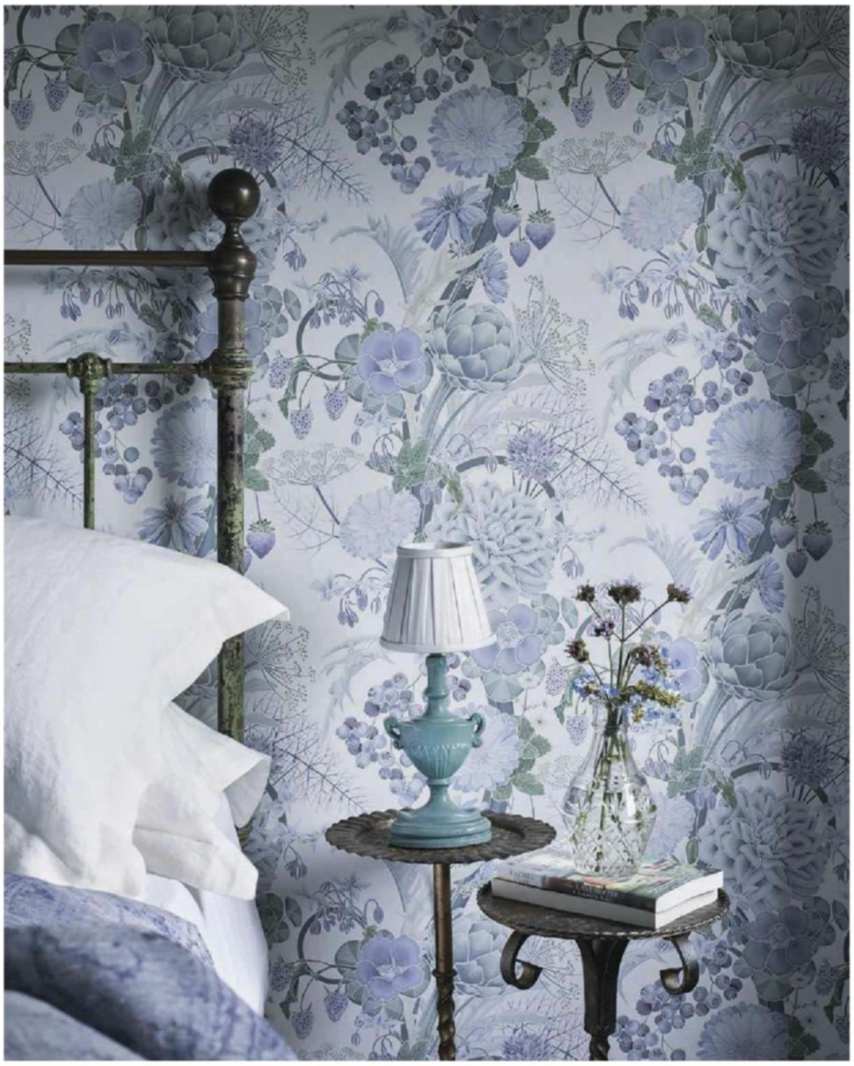
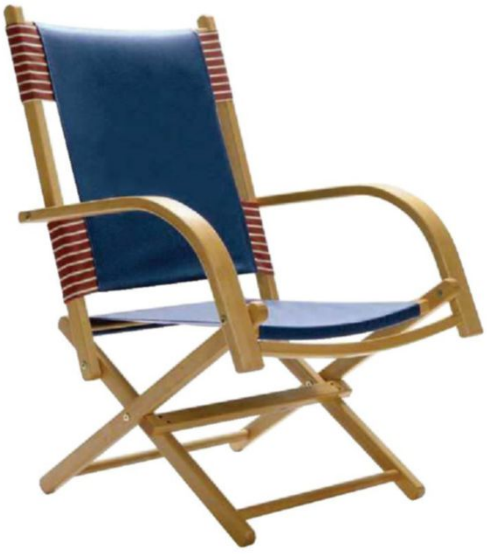


VINTAGE APPEAL

Dutch designer Femke Terpstra has moved on from designing gear for surf and snowboard brands and created a garden furniture company called Hollyhock. Handmade in the Netherlands, her inaugural piece, inspired by a stylish 1950s garden chair, has a FSC certified beechwood frame and 100 per cent Subrella fabric sling, which is water-repellent, mould resistant and easy to clean. Available in petrol, orange and blue, this chair will add a welcome pop of colour to the garden. €359, **hollyhock.nl**



FLOWERING TALENT

The eagle-eyed among you may have spotted the name Hannah McVicar in the pages of *Gardens Illustrated* over the past ten years. Hannah is one of our regular illustrators, responsible for the flower images on our seed packets and tote bags. She's now branching out into wallpaper design with a new floral print, Carlotta, for Osborne & Little's Manarola Spring Collection. Inspired by the gardens of Villa Carlotta on the shores of Italy's Lake Como, the design features dahlias, poppies, berries, cow parsley and ornamental artichoke printed in delicate tones. Available in three colourways, it's priced at £75 per roll. **osborneandlittle.com**

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DIARY

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❶ How to Bring Your Garden Alive with Sculpture and Light
Enjoy an evening talk with sculptor David Harber and lighting designer Sally Storey on how light and sculpture can contribute to garden design. 3 May, 6pm. £35. The John Cullen Showroom, London SW6 2EB. Tel 020 7471 4914, johncullenlighting.com

❷ Rethinking Repton
Take a look at how third-year students on the Landscape Architecture and Garden Design degree at Writtle University have interpreted Humphry Repton's approaches to landscape design in the 18th century – and his trademark before-and-after paintings for clients – in this exhibition at the RHS Lindley Library. 3-22 May, 10am-5pm. Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE. Tel 020 3176 5800, rhs.org.uk

❸ Kew's Temperate House
The stunning Temperate House at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, re-opens this month after a five-year restoration project that has seen 15,000 panes of glass replaced. Opening 5 May, 10am-5.45pm. £16. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AE. Tel 020 8332 5655, kew.org

❹ Jupiter Artland's 10th Anniversary
Two new site-specific works have been commissioned to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Jupiter Artland, the sculpture park in the grounds of Bonnington House. The first, by Phyllida Barlow, will be sited in the woodland area and opens on 12 May. The second, by Portuguese artist Joana Vasconcelos, is a swimming pool installation for the house's Italian Garden that can be seen from July. Bonnington House Steadings, Wilkieston, Edinburgh EH27 8BY. Tel 01506 889900, jupiterartland.org

❺ Plant Fairs Roadshow
Choose plants from specialist nurseries, including Beth Chatto and Cottage Garden Plants, at Layer Marney Tower in Essex. 13 May, 12-5pm. £9. Layer Marney, nr Colchester, Essex CO5 9US. Tel 07791 031657, plant-fairs.co.uk

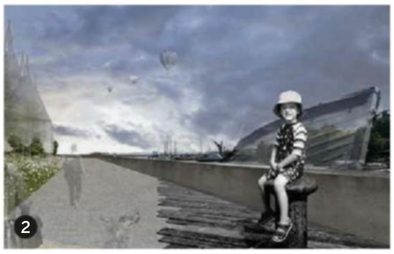
❻ An Evening with Michael Marriot
Learn how to choose the perfect rose for your garden at this evening talk from Michael Marriot, senior rosarian at David Austin Roses, hosted by Wildegoose Nursery. 17 May, 6.30pm. £10. The Walled Garden, Lower Millichope, Munslow, Shropshire SY7 9HE. Tel 01584 841890, wildegoosenursery.co.uk

❼ Journées des Plantes de Chantilly
If you're visiting Paris this month, be sure to visit France's premier spring flower show. Now in its fourth year in its new home – the magnificent grounds of the Château de Chantilly, just 25 minutes by train from central Paris – the show promises more nurseries and plants than ever before. 18-20 May, 10am-7pm. €17 advanced ticket. Domaine de Chantilly, 7 Rue du Connétable, 60500 Chantilly, France. Tel +33 (0)344 27 31 80, domainedechantilly.com

❽ Barnsley Village Festival
Don't miss the chance to visit the Rosemary Verey-designed gardens of Barnsley House. They're opening as part of the Barnsley Village Festival's 30th anniversary celebrations, which coincide with the centenary of Verey's birth. Other gardens in the village will also open to the public. 19 May, from 9.30am. £7. Barnsley, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 5EE. Tel 01285 740000, barnsleyhouse.com

❾ Tour Sandymere Garden
Enjoy a guided tour of Sandymere garden in Cotebrook, Cheshire, developed by Sir John Timpson to a plan by landscape architect Mark Darwent. Highlights include a hosta garden and generous plantings of azaleas and rhododendrons. In aid of Perennial. 31 May. 11am-2.45pm £60 (includes lunch). Sandymere, Middlewich Road, Cotebrook, Cheshire CW6 9EH. Tel 0800 093 8510, perennial.org.uk

❿ Bloom in the Park
See show gardens from some of Ireland's top garden designers at the country's premier garden festival, which opens in Dublin's Phoenix Park this month. Alongside show gardens you'll find gardening tools and accessories and taste some of Ireland's best food and drink. 31 May – 4 June, 9am-6pm. €16. Phoenix Park, Dublin 8, Ireland. Tel +353 (0)1 295 8181, bloominthepark.com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BARNSLEY HOUSE BY JASON INGRAM. WILDEGOOSE NURSERY BY MICHAEL MARRIOT

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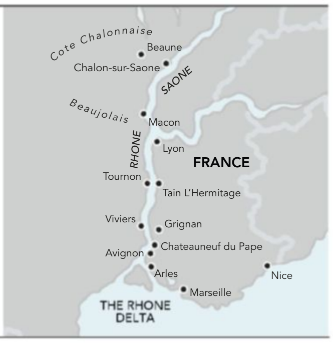

A relaxing river cruise awaits at a delightful time of year in Southern France as the Amadeus Provence takes us on a journey through beautiful rolling countryside, savouring fine wine and delicious cuisine along the way. Enjoy wine tastings in some of the region's most popular winegrowing areas including Beaujolais where we visit the magnificent cellars of Chateau de la Chaize and in Cote Chalonnaise we will taste some wines at Chateau de Chamirey, one of the finest producers of Mercurey. We will also visit the famous Cave de Tain whose growers dominate the Hermitage appellation. Our onboard wine expert will be on hand to help us fully appreciate the flavours and history of France's glorious wines.

The Itinerary in Brief

Day 1 London to Lyon, France. Fly by scheduled flight to Lyon, or travel by train from London St Pancras. Upon arrival transfer to the Amadeus Provence and embark.

Day 2 Beaujolais. Today we will visit the 17th century Chateau de la Chaize in Brouilly. The historic Chateau is set in splendid gardens and there will be a chance to wander around before tasting a few Brouilly Cuvees in the Chateau's magnificent cellars.

Day 3 Beaune & Cote Chalonnaise. This morning we will visit the world famous, 15th century Hospices de Beaune with its remarkably decorated roof, gallery, kitchen and a well-preserved idea of how the beds would have looked in the Grand Salle des Malades. After lunch on board we continue to Cote Chalonnaise and will taste some wines at Chateau de Chamirey.

Day 4 Lyon. This morning will be spent exploring the gastronomic capital of France and our guided tour will include Les Halles de Lyon, a fabulous gastronomic market. Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure.

Day 5 Tournon and Hermitage. This morning we will be moored opposite the imposing hill of Hermitage covered with Syrah vines making some of the finest and most expensive red wines in the entire Rhone Valley. We will visit the famous Cave de Tain whose growers dominate the Hermitage appellation. In addition to Hermitage itself, we will also taste fine Crozes Hermitage.

Day 6 Viviers. Spend the morning in the southern Ardeche town of Viviers, a wonderfully preserved walled town first established by the Romans. Spend the afternoon sailing and enjoy some wine tasting on board.

Day 7 Chateauneuf du Pape & Grignan. The rich ruby red wine of Chateauneuf du Pape is one of France's most renowned and we will enjoy a tasting before continuing to Grignan, a charming hillside village. Here we will visit a truffle farm where we will have the chance to taste some of these local delicacies. Continue to Chateau de Grignan which was transformed into a luxurious residence during the Renaissance.

Day 8 Avignon. Enclosed by Medieval walls, Avignon boasts a number of splendid museums, churches and palaces. Our guided walking tour will include the Palais des Papes, the cathedral and famous Pont Benezet. After lunch on board enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 9 Arles. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Arles dates back to the 7th century BC. On this morning's guided walking tour we will see the huge amphitheatre and the former Cathedral of St Trophime. Return to the ship for lunch and sail to Avignon.

Day 10 Avignon to London. Transfer to Marseille or Nice for your return scheduled flight, or travel by train to London St Pancras.

Amadeus Provence

Launched in spring 2017, the Amadeus Provence accommodates a maximum of 140 passengers in well-appointed, outside cabins. Spread over four decks, the ship's public spaces include a bar and lounge for socialising and relaxation as well as a fitness area and massage room. The stylish restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting and serves delicious cuisine that will be freshly prepared for you each day. There is a spacious Sun Deck with a plunge pool and comfortable deck furniture. A daily briefing by the Cruise Director will provide you with information on the next day's activities. In addition you will be accompanied by a Guest Speaker who will provide entertaining and informative talks.

Prices & Inclusions

Special offer prices per person based on double occupancy from **£2495**.

What's Included:

- Economy class scheduled air or train travel
- Nine nights aboard the Amadeus Provence on full board basis
- House wine, draught beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner on board
- Shore excursions with use of Quietvox headphones
- Cruise Director, Tour Manager & Guest Speaker
- Gratuities
- Transfers

NB. Ports & itinerary subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability. Travel insurance is not included in the price. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations.

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Chelsea Fringe 19-27 May

A showcase of events celebrating the joy of gardening and plants, from community projects and thought-provoking films to curious installations and art exhibitions

WORDS ALYS HURN

①Urban Tree Festival: Mindfulness in the City
Take a mindful walk in the company of yoga and mindfulness teacher Mel Sutton, while discovering some of London's greener spaces.

- **When** 19 May, 4-5.15pm. £10. 60. St Giles High Street, London WC2H 8LG.
- **Tel** 07725 555460.
- **Web** museumofwalking.org.uk

②Chelsea Fringe at the Geffrye Museum
The Geffrye Museum in Hoxton, east London, is dedicating a day to the joys of the urban garden with veg-carving and herbal tea blending workshops, market stalls and lawn games. Or you can simply sit back in a deckchair and enjoy the garden.

- **When** 19 May, 10am-6pm. Geffrye Museum of the Home, 136 Kingsland Road, London E2 8EA.
- **Tel** 020 7749 6026.
- **Web** geffrye-museum.org.uk

③Tour de Plants
Dress your bicycle and helmet with plants and join the guided cycle tour around east London's green spaces. The trail begins and ends at the Geffrye Museum in Hoxton and bikes are available to hire.

- **When** 19 May, 11am-12.30pm. 136 Kingsland Road, Hackney, London E2 8EA.
- **Tel** 020 7749 6026.
- **Web** geffrye-museum.org.uk

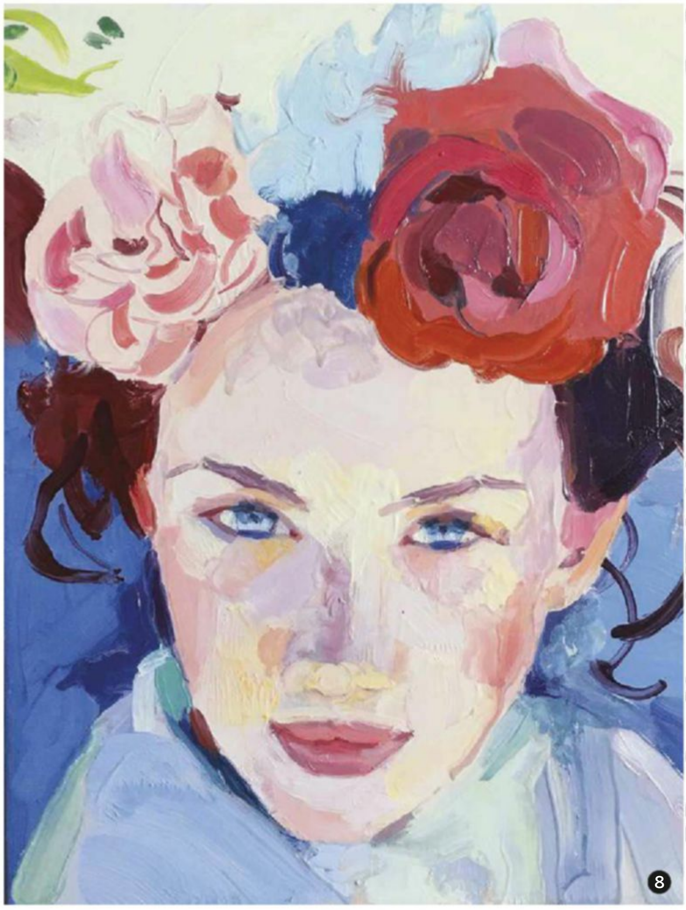
④Bitter and Twisted
Step aboard the Herb Boat, a narrow boat moored in Hackney Wick, to explore the history of bitters. See and smell some of the roots, herbs, spices, bark and berries used in their production and discover why introducing bitter herbs and foods into our diets may be beneficial for gut health.

- **When** 19-20 May, 10am-5pm. The Herb Boat, The Slipway, London E9 5EN.
- **Tel** 07769 913938.
- **Web** theherbboat@aol.com

⑤Chelsea Fever at Pentillie Castle
Located on the banks of the River Tamar in Cornwall, Pentillie Castle and Estate is hosting a floral demonstration from Miranda Hackett Flowers on how to create a pretty floral tablescape using seasonal flowers and foliage, followed by traditional afternoon tea. All plant materials used at the event will be sourced from local growers and businesses in Devon and Cornwall.

- **When** 22 May, 11.30am-2.30pm. £39.50. Pentillie Castle & Estate, Paynters Cross, St Mellion, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 6QD.
- **Tel** 01579 350044.
- **Website** pentillie.co.uk

⑥*Seed: The Untold Story*
A free screening at London's Royal College of Art of this film by Collective Eye Films, which follows five passionate seed keepers, including Vandana Shiva (above) and Jane Goodall, in their David and Goliath ▷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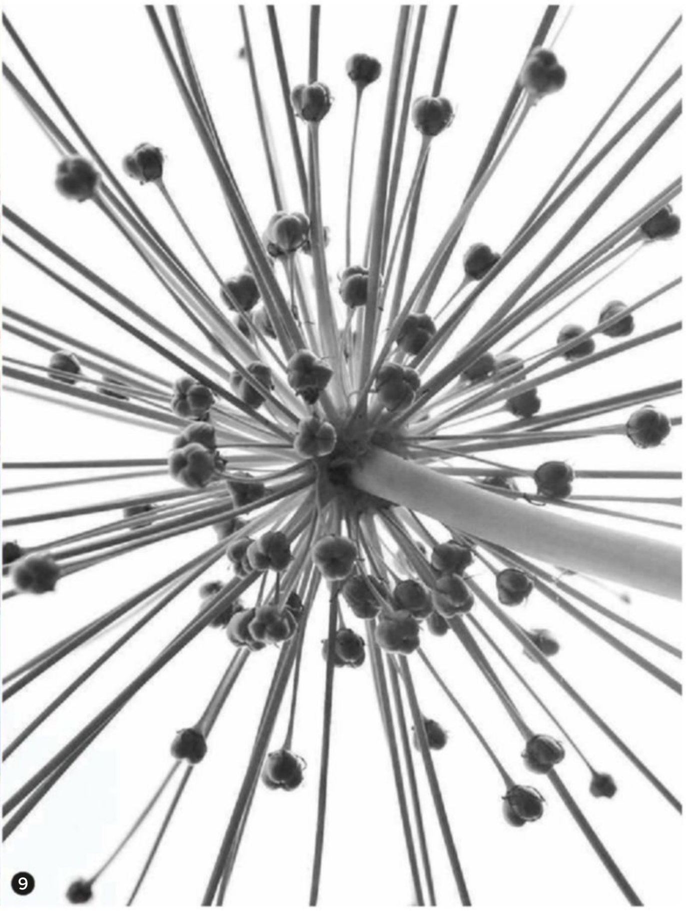
❾

▷ battle with biochemical companies to defend the future of our food.

- **When** 22 May, 7pm-9pm. Studio RCA, 1 Hester Road, London SW11 4AN.
- **Tel** 020 7590 4415.
- **Web** rca.ac.uk

❼Plant swap

Doddington Place Gardens is hosting a plant swap in the grounds of its amazing ten-acre historic garden. It's a great opportunity to find a home for some unwanted plants and pick up some replacements to give your garden a new lease of life.

- **When** 23 May, 11am-4.30pm. £7.50. Doddington Place Gardens, Doddington, nr Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 0BB.
- **Tel** 01795 886101.
- **Web** doddingtonplacegardens.co.uk

❽Gorgeous: Poetry and Art

The Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery is hosting award-winning poet Edward Barker for a poetry-reading evening on the theme of gardens. He'll be surrounded by the work of two portrait artists: Dutch artist Barbara Hoogeweegen and Madrid-based María Torroba. Both will explore the theme of portraiture in contrast with floral motifs, textures and colours.

- **When** 24 May, 6pm-7.30pm. Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery, 2a Conway Street, London W1T 6BA.
- **Tel** 020 7436 4899.
- **Web** rebeccahossack.com

❾Plants Play Music

Artist Carol Sharp demonstrates a device that can read the electromagnetic vibration of a plant and translate it into music, during an installation at Phytology, an artist led project at Bethnal Green Nature Reserve. There will be performances with invited musicians during the day and Carol will talk about her exploration into plant intelligence. You can also visit between 21 and 24 May by appointment only.

- **When** 25-26 May, 11am-6pm. Bethnal Green Nature Reserve, Middleton Street, London E2 9RR.
- **Tel** 07802 183723.
- **Web** carolsharp.co.uk

❿Walthamstow Street Gardeners

The residents of Walthamstow in east London have taken greening up the streets into their own hands and have created wildflower verges, pocket parks, street-planters and a community food-growing plot complete with a pizza oven. This tour takes you to some of their best-loved areas and gardeners from each project will be on hand to answer questions and share their experience of community gardening.

- **When** 26 May, 11am-1pm. Tour starts at Brown's Green at the junction between Brown's Road and Hoe Street, London E17 4RZ.
- **Tel** 07473 912113.
- **Email** helena@poldervaart.co.uk

⓫Feeding Dreams

Omved Gardens was restored in 2017 to create a beautiful event and exhibition space that made use of the existing gardens and glasshouse. This year, for the Chelsea Fringe, Omved will host a series called Feeding Dreams to connect people to food, plants, gardens and art, and run individual workshops including Herbs in the Garden with chef Arthur Potts Dawson, who will share his experience of how herbs are used in dishes around the world.

- **When** 26 May – 4 June, 11am-5.30pm. Check the gardens website for date and time of individual events. Omved Gardens, Townsend Yard, London N6 5JF.
- **Tel** 07949 445459.
- **Web** omvedgardens.com

Find more events at **chelseafringe.com**. Please check event details with venue before travelling. Follow #Chelsea Fringe on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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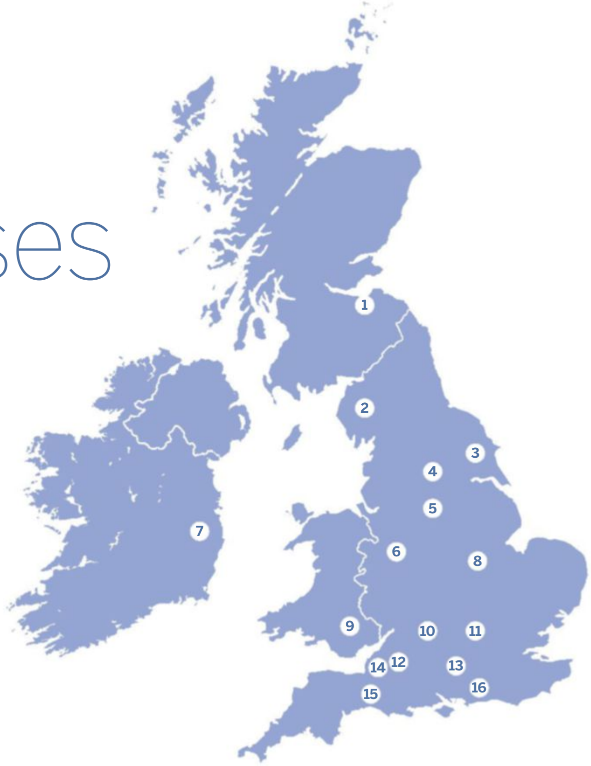

Garden Masterclasses aim to bring together gardeners and designers with some of the most innovative people in the gardening world through one-day workshops. Each workshop is organised around a specific topic, and designed to help students learn and practise. With quality catering, in garden or nursery venues, we hope that students will have a good day out too, meeting other passionate gardeners, and sharing experiences.

ANNIE GUILFOYLE AND NOËL KINGSBURY, MASTERCLASS ORGANISERS

2018 workshop dates and venues: *unless noted all days run from 10am-4.30pm*

• WEDNESDAY 2 MAY £130
Easton Walled Gardens, Lincolnshire (8).
What makes a successful garden? with Annie Guilfoyle & Ursula Cholmeley.

• SATURDAY 12 MAY (10.30AM-5PM) £140
Forde Abbey, Dorset (15).
Garden Masterclass Spring Event with Anna Pavord, Keith Wiley & Harriet Rycroft.

• TUESDAY 15 MAY £140
The Coach House Garden, Gloucestershire (10).
Secrets of successful summer containers with Harriet Rycroft.

• MONDAY 4 JUNE £140
Parham House and Gardens, West Sussex (16).
Parham House through the lens – a photography workshop with Jason Ingram.

• WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE £140
Yeo Valley Organic Garden, Somerset (14).
The immersive experience, planting design at the human scale with Dr. Nigel Dunnett.

• WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE £140
Trentham Gardens, Staffordshire (6).
Dynamic Planting at Trentham with Dr. Nigel Dunnett.

• MONDAY 9 JULY £140
Bury Court, Hampshire (13).
Generative planting design for the 21st century with James and Helen Basson.

• THURSDAY 19 JULY £125
Scampston Walled Garden, North Yorkshire (3).
Using grasses and perennials in the modern garden with Neil Lucas.

• WEDNESDAY 25 JULY £140
Waterperry Gardens, Oxfordshire (11).
Gardens through the lens – a photography workshop with Jason Ingram.

• MONDAY 3 SEPTEMBER £130
Parham House and Gardens, West Sussex (16).
Creating and developing a late summer border with Tom Brown & Marina Christopher.

• TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER £140
Arvensis Perennials, Wiltshire (12).
A collaborative approach to design and planting with Charlotte Harris and Hugo Bugg.

• THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER £110
Walled Garden Treberfydd, Powys (9).
Pruning – a beginner's guide with Mary Payne.

• TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER £130
The Coach House Garden, Gloucestershire (10).
The rabbit's eye view – learning about long-term plant performance with Noel Kingsbury.

• THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER £90
Stillingfleet Lodge Gardens, Yorkshire (4).
The rabbit's eye view – learning about long-term plant performance with Noel Kingsbury.

• SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER £90
Sheffield Botanical Gardens, South Yorkshire (5).
The rabbit's eye view – learning about long-term plant performance with Noel Kingsbury.

• WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER £130
Fairnielaw House, East Lothian (1).
Plants First with Sarah Price.

• WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER £130
Hunting Brook Gardens, Co. Wicklow, Eire (7).
Understanding plants – choosing and using for long-term impact with Jimi Blake & Noel Kingsbury.

• TUESDAY 9 OCTOBER £140
Parham House and Gardens, West Sussex (16).
Lightroom and post production for garden and plant photographers with Jason Ingram.

• FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER (10.30AM-5PM) £140
Forde Abbey, Dorset (15).
Garden Masterclass Autumn Event with Rosy Hardy, Derry Watkins and Sarah Price.

• WEDNESDAY 24 OCTOBER £130
Larch Cottage Gardens, Cumbria (2).
What makes a successful garden? with Annie Guilfoyle.

• WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER £140
Yeo Valley Organic Gardens, Somerset (14).
Lightroom and post production for garden and plant photographers with Jason Ingram.

Workshops with James and Helen Basson, Jimi Blake, Tom Brown, Hugo Bugg & Charlotte Harris, Ursula Cholmeley, Marina Christopher, Dr. Nigel Dunnett, Annie Guilfoyle, Rosy Hardy, Jason Ingram, Dr Noel Kingsbury, Neil Lucas, Rob Macdougall, Anna Pavord, Mary Payne, Sarah Price, Harriet Rycroft, Derry Watkins and Keith Wiley.

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URSULA CHOLMELEY PORTRAIT BY FRED CHOLMELEY

For booking and details of all workshops go to
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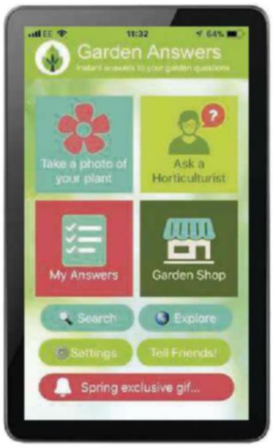
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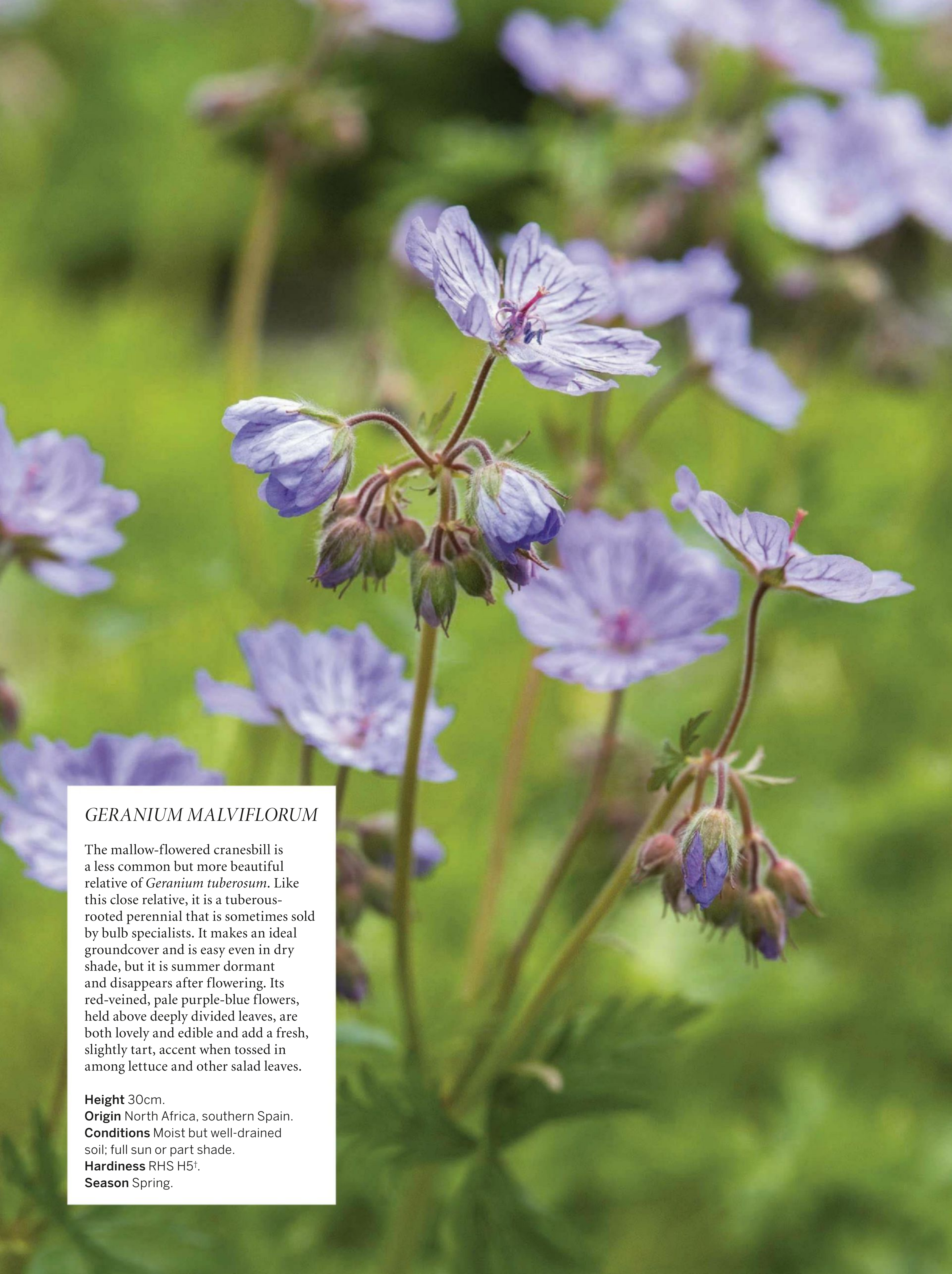


GERANIUM MALVIFLORUM

The mallow-flowered cranesbill is a less common but more beautiful relative of *Geranium tuberosum*. Like this close relative, it is a tuberous-rooted perennial that is sometimes sold by bulb specialists. It makes an ideal groundcover and is easy even in dry shade, but it is summer dormant and disappears after flowering. Its red-veined, pale purple-blue flowers, held above deeply divided leaves, are both lovely and edible and add a fresh, slightly tart, accent when tossed in among lettuce and other salad leaves.

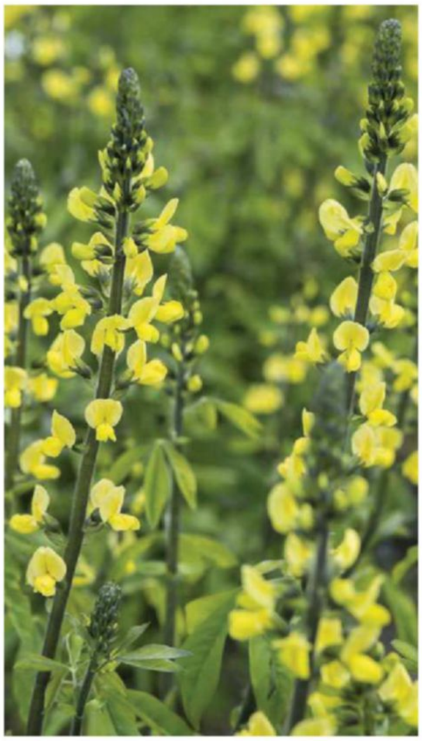
Height 30cm.
Origin North Africa, southern Spain.
Conditions Moist but well-drained soil; full sun or part shade.
Hardiness RHS H5[†].
Season Spring.

MAY PLANTS

Early summer offers Fleur a cornucopia of floral favourites, with delicate flowers in shades of yellow, white and blue and foliage that has a golden glow

WORDS FLEUR VAN ZONNEVELD PHOTOGRAPHS MAAYKE DE RIDDER

Fleur van Zonneveld runs the Dutch nursery De Kleine Plantage.
dekleineplantage.nl



THERMOPSIS LANCEOLATA

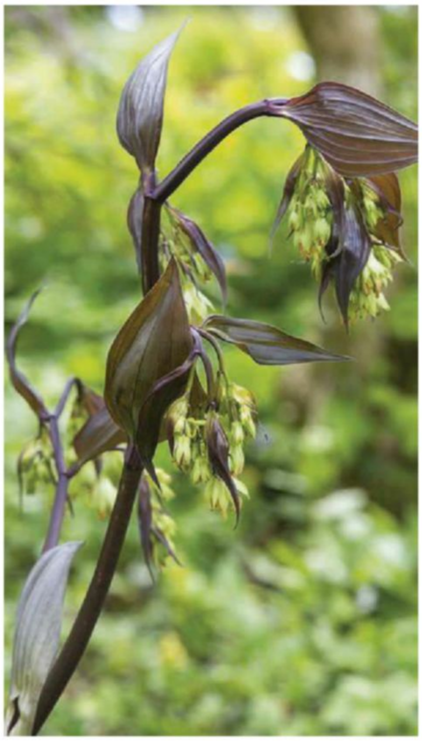
Sometimes known as lanced-leaved false-lupine, *Thermopsis lanceolata* has tall, lupine-like flowers that rise up through grey-green leaves and in May can reach up to a metre in height. It's also sometimes confused with a baptisia. In late summer upright, dark, seedpods point up looking like arrows between the felt-like leaves and remain attractive for several months. It will develop many beautiful seedlings, although its seeds barely germinate unless soaked in hot water for 24 hours, then sown in the spring when cold. Unlike its close relative *Thermopsis montana,* it is not invasive.

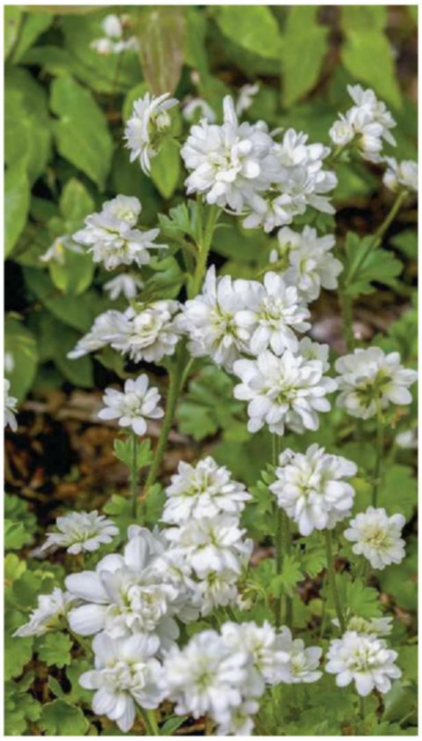
Height 1m.
Origin Asia, Siberia, Japan.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H7.
Season Spring – summer.

DISPORUM LONGISTYLUM 'GREEN GIANT'

While species of *Polygonatum* have long been familiar garden plants their close relative *Disporum* from Asia is possibly less well known. This is a shame because disporums are a great foliage plants for shady areas, forming clumps of tall, branched stems, laden with large leaves. In spring these are topped with slender, bell-shaped, soft-yellow flowers. This cultivar, introduced by Dan Hinkley from Sichuan Province in China, has new shoots that emerge in shades of brownish red before maturing to green.

Height 1m.
Origin China to Korea.
Conditions Moist but well-drained soil; part shade.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.
Season Spring – summer.





SAXIFRAGA 'FLORE PLENO'

A lovely form of *S. granulata* that produces an abundance of delicate-looking, creamy-white, double flowers, each held above a crenated-leaved rosette atop a 20cm-tall stalk. The plant goes into summer dormancy and disappears below ground after flowering. It loves a fertile clay soil and works beautifully alongside late-flowering shade-loving plants, such as *Begonia grandis* subsp. *evansiana*, *Cyclamen hederifolium* or *Impatiens omeiana*. In the Netherlands it's known as bells of Haarlem as it once grew in large numbers around a monastery in the Dutch city of Haarlem.

Height 40cm.
Origin Europe.
Conditions Moist but well-drained soil; partial shade.
Hardiness RHS H7.
Season Spring.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.

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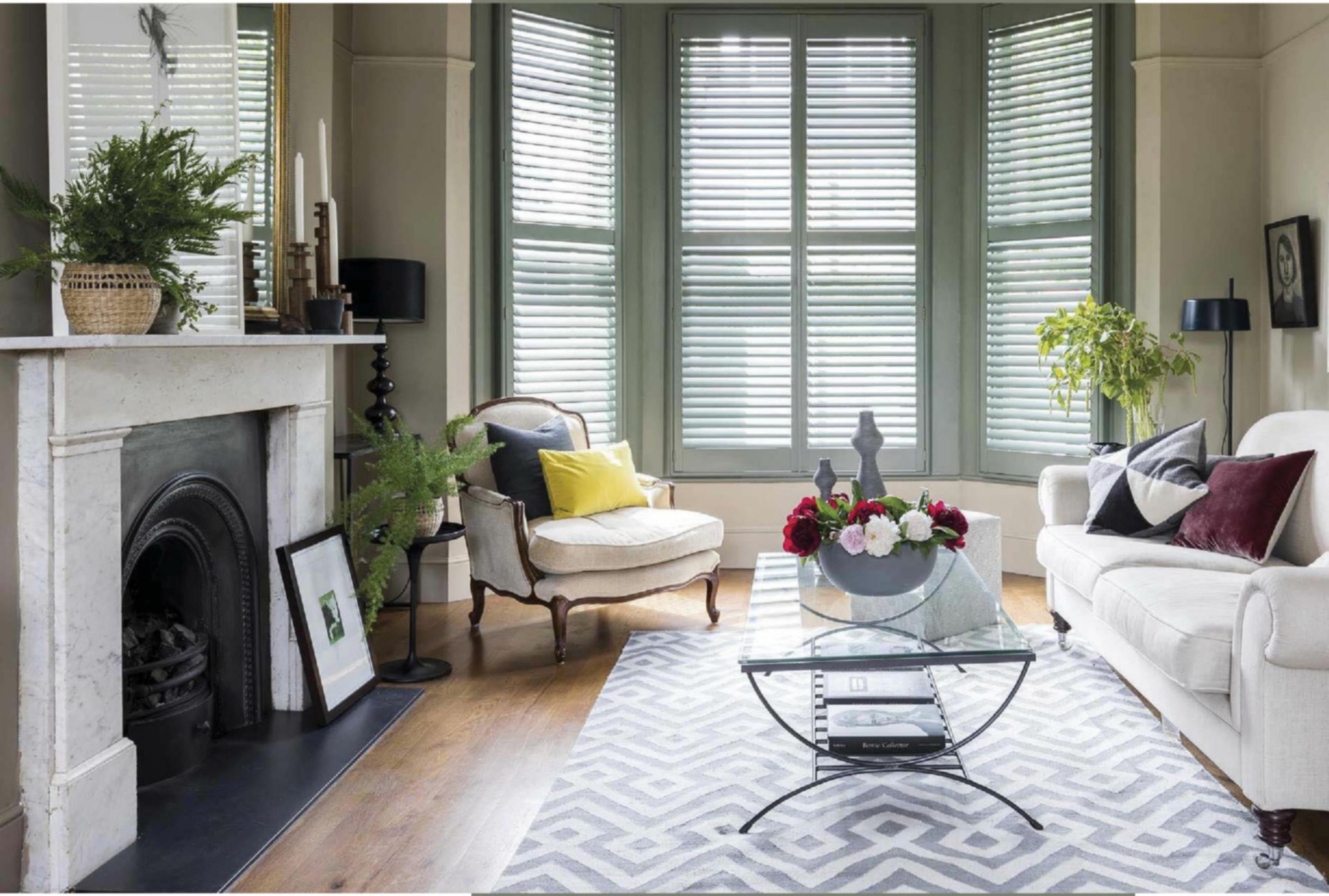

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LUNARIA REDIVIVA

In the Netherlands this perennial honesty is known as *Judaspenning*, as it's said its large, flat and silver-coloured seedlings, which look like coins, first grew where Judas threw his 30 pieces of silver. The flowers open a soft-lilac colour gradually fading to white and eventually forming beautiful silvery seedheads that hang down like earrings – not as round as *Lunaria annua*, but equally spectacular. It self-seeds easily, and works well in shaded woodland areas where soil is not too dry. It also combines well with other plants in naturalised planting schemes. AGM*.

Height 90cm.
Origin Europe.
Conditions Moist but well-drained soil; full sun to part shade.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 5a-8b.
Season Spring – summer

CONVALLARIA MAJALIS 'FERNWOOD'S GOLDEN SLIPPERS'

A most aptly named lily of the valley, with lush, golden-yellow foliage that stays this beautiful sunny colour until autumn. I love lily of the valley, not only for its sweet scent and beautiful tiny bells, but also because it's imbued with so much symbolism. Despite the fact every part of the plant is poisonous one of its most common associations is with youth and pure love – one of the reasons it is so often found in wedding bouquets. I always encourage everyone to bring a vase of it into the house every year.

Height 25cm.
Origin Europe, Asia, North America.
Conditions Calcareous soils; dry, shady woodland.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b.
Season May.

CORYDALIS ELATA

These bunches of blue flowers held on tall, waving stems are at their most beautiful when they are backlit by the sun, which then highlights the flower's beautiful, subtle veins. It's one of several blue *Corydalis* recently introduced from Sichuan Province in China. Perhaps the best known is the appropriately named *C. flexuosa* 'Blue Panda' from Sichuan's Wolong Panda Reserve, but this form performs well in both cool and hot summer climates, and flowers from spring into summer. Its fresh-green leaves make it a good companion for yellow-green flowering plants.

Height 50cm.
Origin China.
Conditions Well-drained soil; part shade.
Hardiness RHS H7.
Season Spring – summer.

PLACES TO VISIT

Recommended places to see seasonal plants at their best both in Europe and the UK

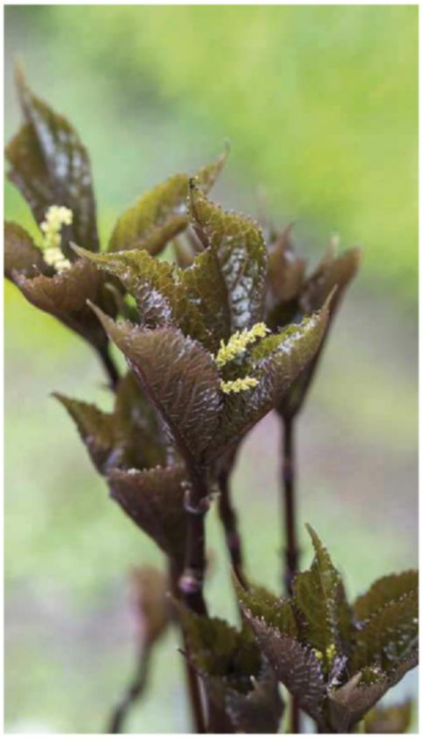
The lovely Dutch garden owned by John and Joyce Ramsbotham is a great place for discovering shade-loving plants. Their garden, **Op De Haar** in Hoevelaken, on the border between Gelderland and Utrecht, is made up of several different areas each with its own distinct character, but it is probably best known for its woodland area filled with shade-tolerant plants such as epimediums, dysosmas and disporums. John and Joyce are both very knowledgeable and enjoy showing visitors around, but are open by appointment only. Tel +31 (0)65 375 3221, opentuinopdehaar.nl

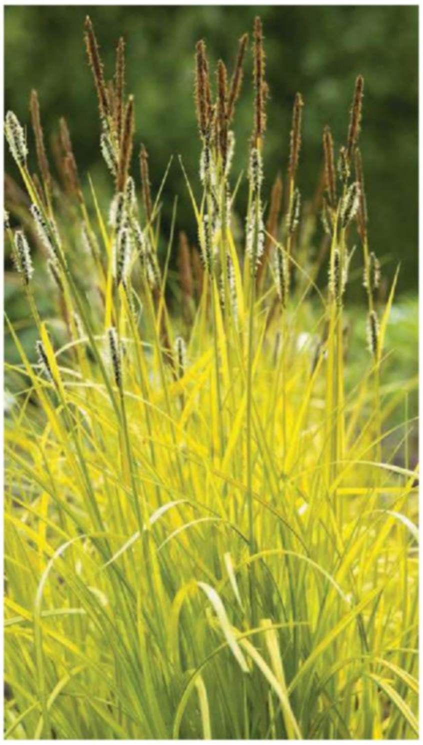
For many years the beautiful garden **Theetuin Van Weesp** was hidden from view behind the 17th-century fortification walls of the northern Dutch city of Weesp. The garden is now owned by the Dutch bulb expert Jacqueline van der Kloet who has created wonderful layered planting designs using the newest bulb cultivars among perennials. As you'd expect, the garden is at its best in late spring and early summer when the tulips are in full flower but this well-structured garden, centred around a tranquil pond, and surrounded by a huge *Thuja* hedge, offers plenty of inspiration throughout the year. It's name, which translates as Tea Garden, is a little misleading as the tea hut generally opens only when the garden hosts special events, but the gardens themselves are free to visitors most days from April to October.

CHLORANTHUS SESSILIFOLIUS 'DOMINO'

An unusual and slightly mysterious plant that is wrongly sold by some nurseries as *Chloranthus fortunei*. It opens in late April/early May with black foliage that gradually fades to a dark green by June, although the scented, fluffy white flowers are held on stalks that remain black. The shiny, young, black shoots look very striking, but they can quickly disappear once slugs and snails discover them. We've made several cuttings of the plant with varying results, and it doesn't always come true from seed. Just to add to its mystery it is pollinated by thrips.

Height 50cm.
Origin Asia.
Conditions Moist but well-drained soil; part shade.
Hardiness RHS H6.
Season Spring.





CAREX ELATA 'AUREA'

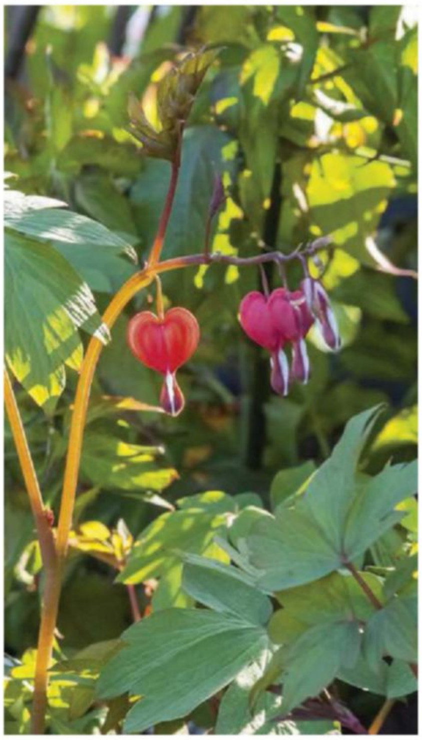
It was the well-known botanist and author EA Bowles who discovered this cultivar of the perennial, evergreen grass growing in East Anglia and so gave it the common name of Bowles's golden sedge. It forms elegant, hanging clumps of such bright yellow it looks as though the sun is shining through it even in winter as in mild years the grass holds on to its yellow colour until late in the year. It needs a moisture-retentive soil as its leaves will burn if the grass gets too dry or too hot. However, in the right conditions its glorious golden colour creates an unbeatable effect. AGM.

Height 60cm.
Origin Europe, UK.
Conditions Moisture-retentive soil; full sun to part shade.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.
Season Year round.

LAMPROCAPNOS SPECTABILIS 'VALENTINE'

I've loved this brick-red bleeding heart since I first encountered it, back when it was still a *Dicentra*. The muted colours of its dull-red flowers and bronze-tinted leaves make it a quiet addition to the spring garden amid the vibrancy of most spring flowers. It prefers a slightly damp spot in part shade, otherwise the leaf can dry out in summer making the interesting leaf colour disappear. Its flowers are hermaphrodite, meaning they have both male and female organs. In warm areas the plant goes into summer dormancy. AGM.

Height 60cm.
Origin China, Korea, Japan, Siberia.
Conditions Moist but well-drained soil; part shade.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 3a-8b.
Season Spring – early summer.



▷ Open Monday – Saturday, 10am-5pm, closed public holidays. Ossenmarkt 34, 1381 LX Weesp, the Netherlands. Tel + 31 (0)63 741 0027, theetuin.nl

Created by the garden designer and writer Marylyn Abbott, **West Green House Garden** in Hampshire offers a mix of neo-classical style with contemporary design. Close to the Georgian manor house a formal walled garden has been faithfully restored to its original lines, and features an elaborate potager alongside exuberantly planted perennial borders. Beyond the walls are more relaxed gardens, featuring an eclectic collection of garden follies and the contemporary Garden of the Five Bridges with its serpentine ribbon of *Iris sibirica*. West Green House Gardens, Thackham's Lane, nr Hartley Wintney, Hook, Hampshire RG27 8JB. Tel 01252 844611, westgreenhouse.co.uk

Heading northwest across the North Wessex Downs is one England's loveliest Arts and Crafts gardens at **Rodmarton Manor**. Laid out by Claud and Margaret Biddulph, between 1909 and 1929, the eight-acre Cotswold garden has changed very little over the years with fabulous planting and quirky topiary. It opens from 1 May, 2-5pm. Rodmarton Manor, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 6PF. Tel 01285 841442, rodmarton-manor.co.uk

Even further west are the gloriously romantic **Trematon Castle Gardens**. The Cornish castle is home to the design duo Julian and Isabel Bannerman and they have created a stunning garden with lush planting around the castle's ruined battlements. In early summer, the riot of wildflowers that carpet the walk up the Motte, includes bluebells, campion and purple orchids. Remember to bring cash as the entry fee of £8 is made via an honesty box. Saltash, Cornwall PL12 4QW. trematoncastle.com

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Haddon Hall's gardens are renowned for their roses, structure and views, and are arranged in a series of terraces, retained by enormous buttressed stone walls, that cascade down to the River Wye. Recently re-designed by award-winning garden designer, Arne Maynard, Haddon's gardens and the Hall itself are open to the public until November.

Visit www.haddonhall.co.uk for more details
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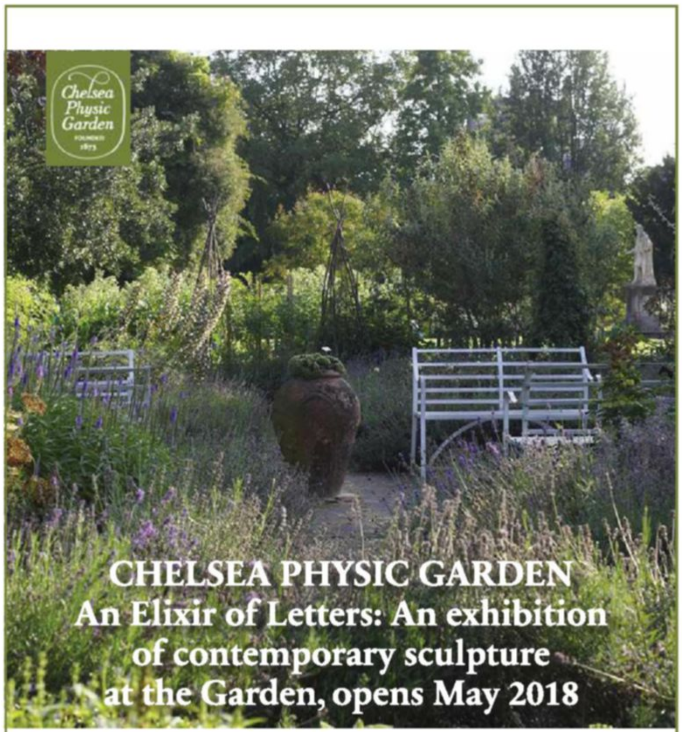
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The Outsider

Rising abruptly from the fertile plains of southwestern France, the Pyrenees are one of the most beautiful and accessible mountain ranges in Europe – and the perfect short-trip destination for horticulturist Hannah Gardner

WORDS **HANNAH GARDNER** ILLUSTRATION **ALICE PATTULLO**

The Pyrenees' highest peaks and most spectacular scenery are found in France, in the central region around the Cirque de Gavarnie – a rock ampitheatre sculpted by glaciation, although the glaciers themselves have all but disappeared. Here the steep, V-shaped valleys that lead from the great peaks are lined with mountain pines (*Pinus mugo*) and birch. The woods, wetlands and grasslands are full of flowers; a convergence of northern and southern European species. Traditional farming methods encourage species diversity (the best hay meadows I found were around 1,200m). I visited the Parc National des Pyrénées, a protected, largely uninhabited area with more than 3,000 species of plant. The altitudinal range and geological composition have created a great diversity of habitats.

Inspiration

In need of clean mountain air, I had only five days for a botanical trip. The easy rural charm and accessible treks of the mountains in early summer are an antidote to the pressures of work. Start out as the snow melts and you'll be spoilt for choice both in the range and extent of your trekking routes and in the plant communities to explore.

When to go

Between April and late October, with flowers peaking in May-June and July at higher elevations. Be aware that popular routes can be very crowded in July and August, although some passes only become accessible during these months.

Where to go

I arrived early in Gavarnie and quietly explored woodland, sub montane meadows and alpine flora. The valley descends from an incredible natural ampitheatre of cliffs and waterfalls. Wandering off the main route and through wooded areas, I found a jungle of ferns, meadow rue, the marsh spurge *Euphorbia palustris*, geraniums and clumps of hellebores with their great bloated seedheads. Then the unmistakable wide leaves of *Paris quadrifolia*. In grazed clearings *Gentiana verna* puncture the grass floor with vivid shots of Klein Blue. The gentle lavender pompoms of *Globularia nudicaulis*, martagon lilies, and mountain globeflower (*Trollius europaeus*) thrive in the ungrazed meadows. *Iris latifolia* were yet to flower.

Up in the cirque opportunistic alpine flowers appear in the limestone scree as the snow recedes. Clambering across the snowfields I found colonies of brilliant white *Hepatica nobilis* and – once I got my eye in – the tiny fringed alpine bonnets of *Soldanella alpina*. Look up and see the Grande Cascade de Gavarnie (at 440m Europe's highest waterfall), thundering into the glacial basin.

I reached the Spanish border at Port de Gavarnie (2,270m). When the track ends continuing on foot rewarded me with vast, pale swathes of the endemic *Ranunculus pyrenaeus*. Flashes of deep blue run through these, thanks to another limestone-loving gentian *Gentiana occidentalis*, its decorative trumpets opening in the sun.

I was keen to study different habitats, and found just that in a paradisiacal valley leading from the Lac du Tech in the Val d'Azun. I headed up towards Lac d'Ausseilla (2,192m) and wandered through drifts of crimson-flowered alpine rose (*Rhododendron ferrugineum*). A river formed by springs and converging streams soaks the valley floor creating a bright floral swamp. It was a floating garden of sunshine yellow *Caltha palustris*, insectivorous *Drosera*, *Pinguicula grandiflora* and the Alpine marsh orchid *Dactylorhiza majalis*.

Plant to grow at home

The perennial horned pansy, *Viola cornuta*, has distinctive long tapering spurs, an ebullient habit and plentiful sweet-smelling, pale-violet flowers that last throughout spring and early summer. It is endemic to the Pyrenees, abundant in the montane pastures found between 1,000-2,300m. Jostling for space alongside bladderwort, buttercups, bistort, *Campanula glomerata* and masses of European yellow rattle, *Viola cornuta* holds the whole composition of these rich hay meadows together, tumbling through the stems of taller neighbours.

In cultivation it will return for a second autumn flush of flowers if you cut it back and water to encourage regrowth. The foliage, a mass of small, rich-green leaves, is evergreen making it effective and attractive groundcover that reaches 15cm.

Also in cultivation is *Viola cornuta* Alba Group, with crisp white flowers. This complements green foliage plants and can be very useful in bringing light to a shady spot. Tolerant of full sun, partial shade and also of exposure, *V. cornuta* needs fertile, moist soil and good drainage. Remembering that they are from one of the wettest regions in France, it is worth adding humus to your ground to get young plants established, dividing established clumps in spring or autumn.

Guides and maps

Fleurs des Pyrénées faciles à reconnaître by Philippe Mayoux (Rando Editions, 2013). Not available in translation.

Flowers of South-west Europe: A Field Guide by Oleg Polunin and BE Smythies (Oxford, 1988).

Trekking in the Pyrenees by Douglas Streatfeild-James (Trailblazer, 1998).

Places to stay

Camping Mialanne

63 Route d'Azun, 65400 Arrens-Marsous, France. Tel +33 (0)5 6292 6714/6237 9608, campingmialanne.fr

A campsite with good facilities and a great position. It's near the picturesque town of Argelès-Gazost, which has a lively Tuesday market, where I stockpiled local cheeses for my picnic lunches, and a thermal day spa, Le Jardin des Bain (**lejardindesbains.com)**, where I eased tired limbs. If you prefer a little more comfort than that offered by camping there are plenty of wonderful rural gîtes in the Pyrenees (**en.gites-de-france.com**).

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GARDENING TALENT

Scott Taylor

As the supervisor of Kew's Temperate House Scott has been responsible for nurturing 1,500 different species through the glasshouse's six year-long restoration project

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

First plant love *Vriesea splendens* and other bromeliads. I bought a vriesea for my mum's birthday when I was 17. She loved the plant but said I'd have to look after it. At the time I had no clue what to do with my life, but that was the beginning of my horticultural career as I was fascinated by this plant and how to care for it. It's an epiphytic plant which grows on trees. Since then I've been interested in all sorts of plants with amazing adaptations, such as carnivory (those that eat insects), epiphytism (use trees for support), xerophytism (drought resistant) and so many more, have fascinated me.

Horticultural heroes Anyone who is fascinated by growing plants. In our modern world we need to keep in touch with nature and plants are an accessible option to all.

Favourite landscape and garden I grew up in southern France and was inspired by the Jardin Exotique de Monaco for its fantastic succulent and cacti collection and its dramatic views, and the Parc Phoenix in Nice with its large glasshouse filled with tropical plants.

Guiding principles I'm quite a practical person so my first consideration for any garden is how it will need to be looked after. This then allows for planning where the shed goes, where the water comes from, where the compost bin will be, and so on. I like to be as organic as possible and encourage wildlife.

Least favourite plant group It's a love-hate relationship with palms, I love most of them apart from the really nasty spiny ones! When I worked in the Palm House at Kew I had to have a spine from one nearly an inch long surgically removed from my arm.

Your next big project We are now in the final stages of the Temperate House restoration. The project started in 2012 and we've had to transplant, propagate and transport all the plants we wanted out of the building. Then we grew them on in our nurseries and added many new species to diversify and enrich our collection. We developed a new design including a new landscape and geographic layout and now we're putting the final touches to the replanting of around 1,500 different species.

Further information

The Temperate House at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew reopens on 5 May with displays of some of the world's rarest and oldest plants. kew.org.

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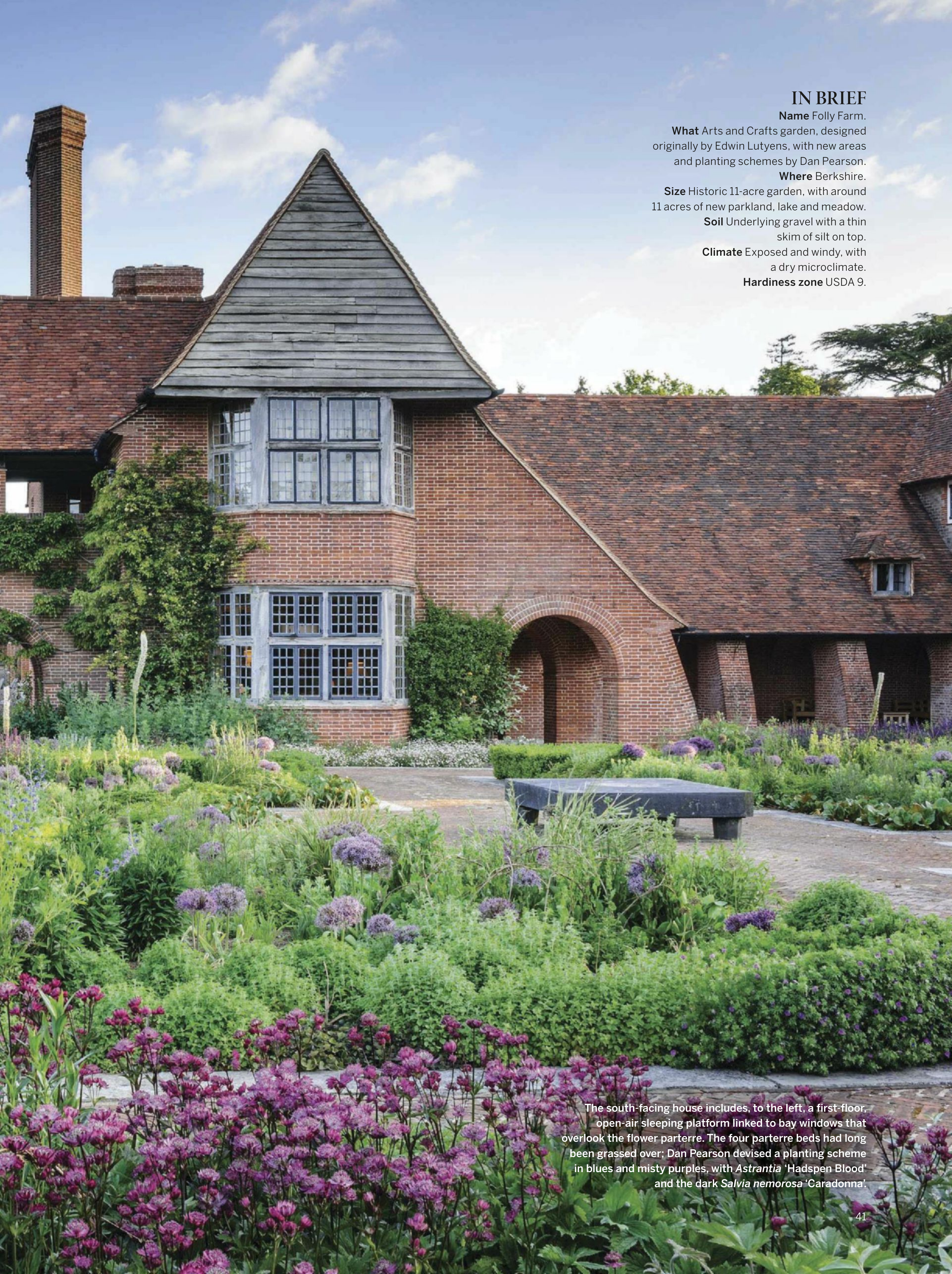
TRADEMARKS OF A MASTER

In the first of a new series, Anna Pavord visits Folly Farm, a famed Lutyens garden where over the past eight years designer Dan Pearson has been revitalising the planting

WORDS ANNA PAVORD PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM



IN BRIEF

Name Folly Farm.
What Arts and Crafts garden, designed originally by Edwin Lutyens, with new areas and planting schemes by Dan Pearson.
Where Berkshire.
Size Historic 11-acre garden, with around 11 acres of new parkland, lake and meadow.
Soil Underlying gravel with a thin skim of silt on top.
Climate Exposed and windy, with a dry microclimate.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.

The south-facing house includes, to the left, a first-floor, open-air sleeping platform linked to bay windows that overlook the flower parterre. The four parterre beds had long been grassed over; Dan Pearson devised a planting scheme in blues and misty purples, with *Astrantia* 'Hadspen Blood' and the dark *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna'.

Folly Farm, at Sulhamstead in Berkshire, is generally considered the best garden that the famous architect Edwin Lutyens ever designed. He was first there in 1906, to enlarge the original 17th-century farmhouse, and came back again six years later to devise a completely different Arts and Crafts style extension for its new owner. The long elegant lines that stitch the garden into such a close relationship with the house exemplify his famous saying that 'Every garden scheme should have a backbone, a central idea beautifully phrased'. Over the past decade, the subtle, complex work that Lutyens carried out at Folly Farm has been most beautifully restored by the current owners, who then commissioned designer Dan Pearson to rethink the landscape in which the house is set and to devise new planting schemes for this important garden.

The garden lies chiefly to the south and west of the much-enlarged house. One long vista stretches from the lovely two-storey bay window on the south front through a flowery parterre to end finally in an acre of walled garden. This had spent much of its past life grassed over and grazed by a herd of sheep. It is one of the areas that Dan Pearson has completely revitalised, each quarter with a different purpose. There are handsome new pergolas of oak, asparagus beds, and long borders of lavender (*Lavandula* x *intermedia* 'Grosso') around a central square, set with low benches of oak.

On the south side of the house, cleverly tucked into a corner created by the link between his two extensions, Lutyens designed a water tank surrounded on two sides by massive arched supports. These create a shady cloister walk behind, but their main purpose is to hold up the great sweep of tiled roof that became another characteristic of the Lutyens style. A reflecting pool is another feature that has been painstakingly put back into working order. Its calm, serene surface gives no hint of the agonies of trying to persuade water to do what you want it to do.

Running south from the centre of Lutyens' first extension, an H-shaped, faintly Dutch-looking building built of grey and pink brick, is one of the garden's most commanding features – a long canal ending in a semicircle of superbly complicated brickwork. The bricks Lutyens favoured are narrower than usual, just two inches thick at most, and this gives his designs an intricacy that he could never have achieved using thicker, standard bricks. It was fortunate that he struck up a good relationship with the owner of the Daneshill brickworks near Basingstoke, who was prepared to produce what Lutyens wanted.

The canal is a memorable instance of the way Lutyens sought to knit house and garden together in a single, unified design. Lined up with the centre of the H, the canal lies parallel with the herringbone brick path, almost three metres wide, that is centred on the big bay window of the 1912 extension. A final parallel is formed by the long gravelled path that runs alongside the garden's eastern boundary. Originally designated as a rhododendron walk, Dan has lined it with specially designed oak containers. In spring these feature beautiful yellow-flowered *Rhododendron luteum*. In late summer they hold 'Annabelle' hydrangeas, underplanted with *Asarum europaeum*, *Epimedium sulphureum* and *Cyclamen coum*.

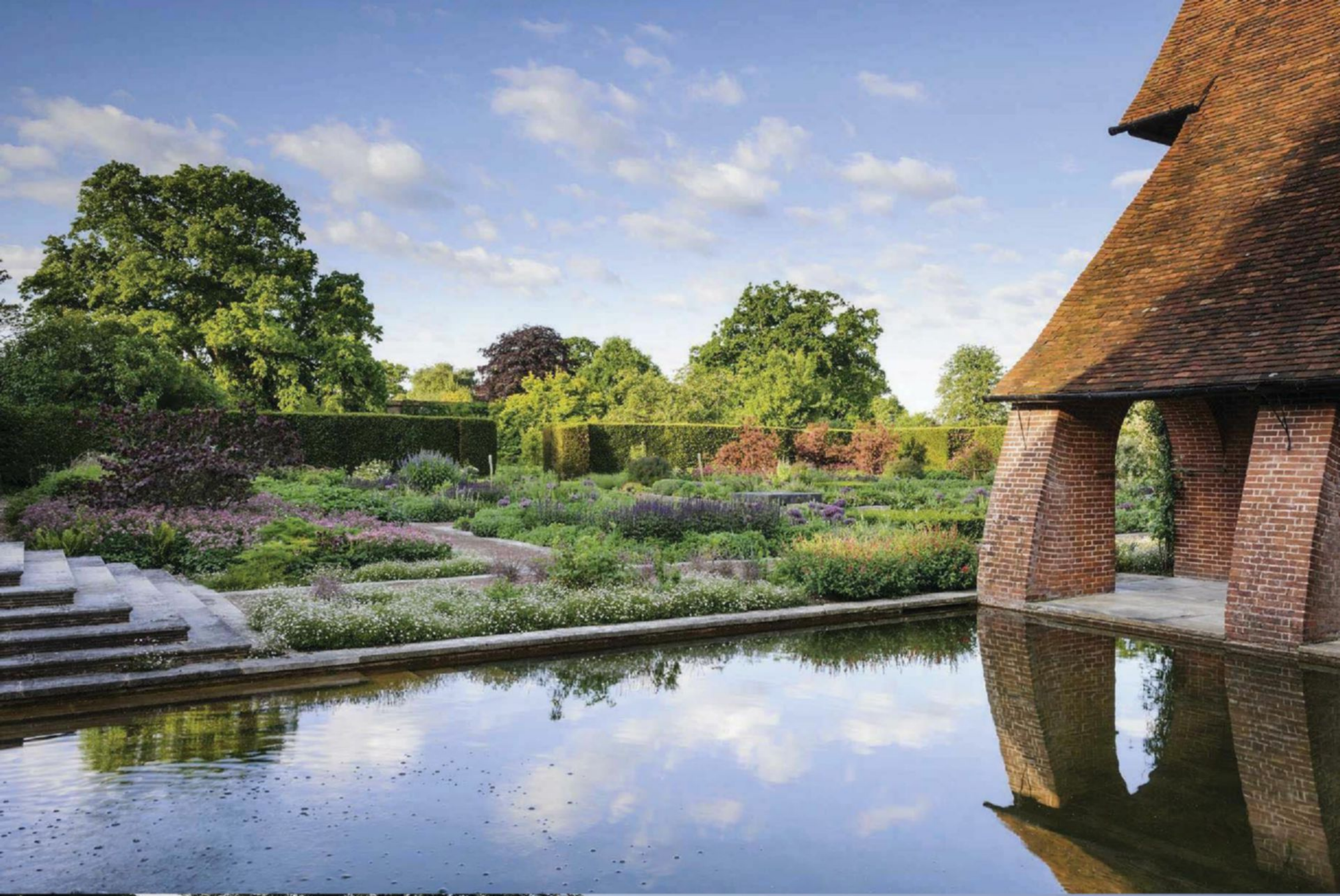
At Folly Farm you can still see many of the devices that became trademarks of Lutyens' work: brick paths laid in a herringbone pattern, flower beds edged with stone pavers, old roofing tiles built up to make risers for steps, the sweeping circles and semi-circles that he used to make the transition from one level of the garden to another. You can see these stylish graceful curves, for instance, in the corners of the Sunken Garden where they lead down to the pool at its centre.

The initial planting plans had been drawn up by the famous plantswoman Gertrude Jekyll (see box on page 48), who worked with Lutyens on more than a hundred gardens. It was a strange relationship, for when they first met in 1889, Lutyens was just 20, although he had already set up in a practice of his own, after the briefest of architectural apprenticeships.

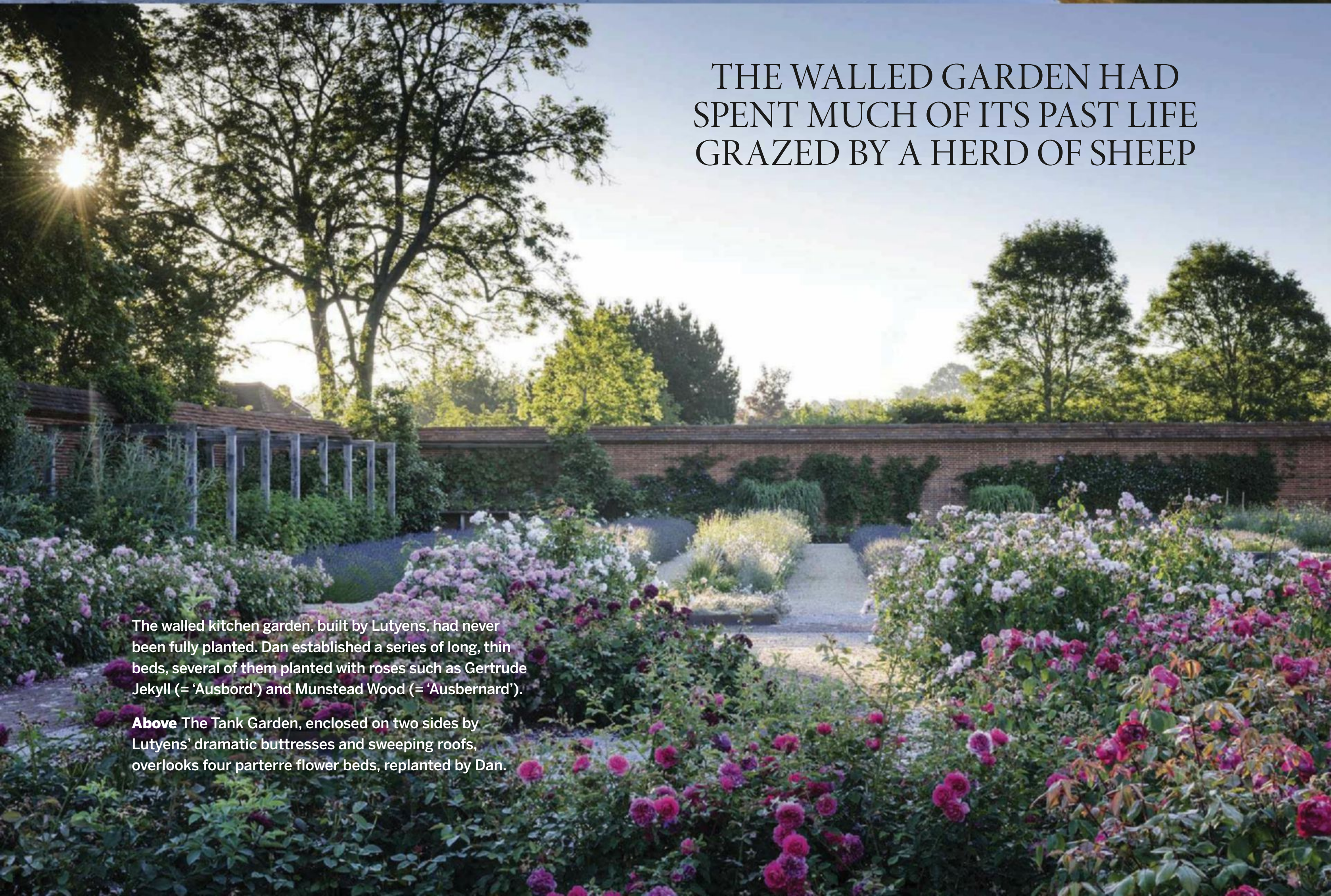
Jekyll by then was 45, well established and widely admired as a painter, embroiderer and gardener. The strength of the partnership lay in their complementary skills. Lutyens believed strongly that the best houses grew out of, and were deeply rooted in, their gardens and that the two should be indivisibly knitted together. But he was not a gardener in the practical sense. He laid down the bones of a garden; Jekyll fleshed them out. But by the time the new owners took over in 2007, much of the original planting at Folly Farm had either disappeared, or been simplified. The complex, flowery parterres had been grassed over, borders reduced in size.

Should the garden be returned to the way it looked in its Edwardian heyday? It would have been possible. The original plans still exist. Or should the new owners take the opportunity to give a new lease of life to this significant site with more contemporary planting? They took the latter course, commissioning Dan Pearson to think not only about revitalising the historic core of the garden, but also about its wider setting. He first came to Folly Farm in 2009 and the following year started on the daunting task of wrapping an outer landscape around what had previously been an intensely inward-looking place.

Jekyll was not forgotten. "We were respectful of what she had done here and of the Arts and Crafts traditions," says Dan. "But she was a brilliant plantswoman and if she were alive today, she wouldn't be using old varieties of plants if better ones were available." There are echoes of her in Dan's long lines of lavender and the chubby leaves of bergenia in the flower parterre. Both were signature plants for Jekyll. But, triumphantly, Dan has given the garden a fresh set of clothes, invigorating it with rich swathes of eupatorium and perovskia, salvias and astrantias, interspersed with explosions of alliums and bright poppies. It is a brilliant achievement. ◻

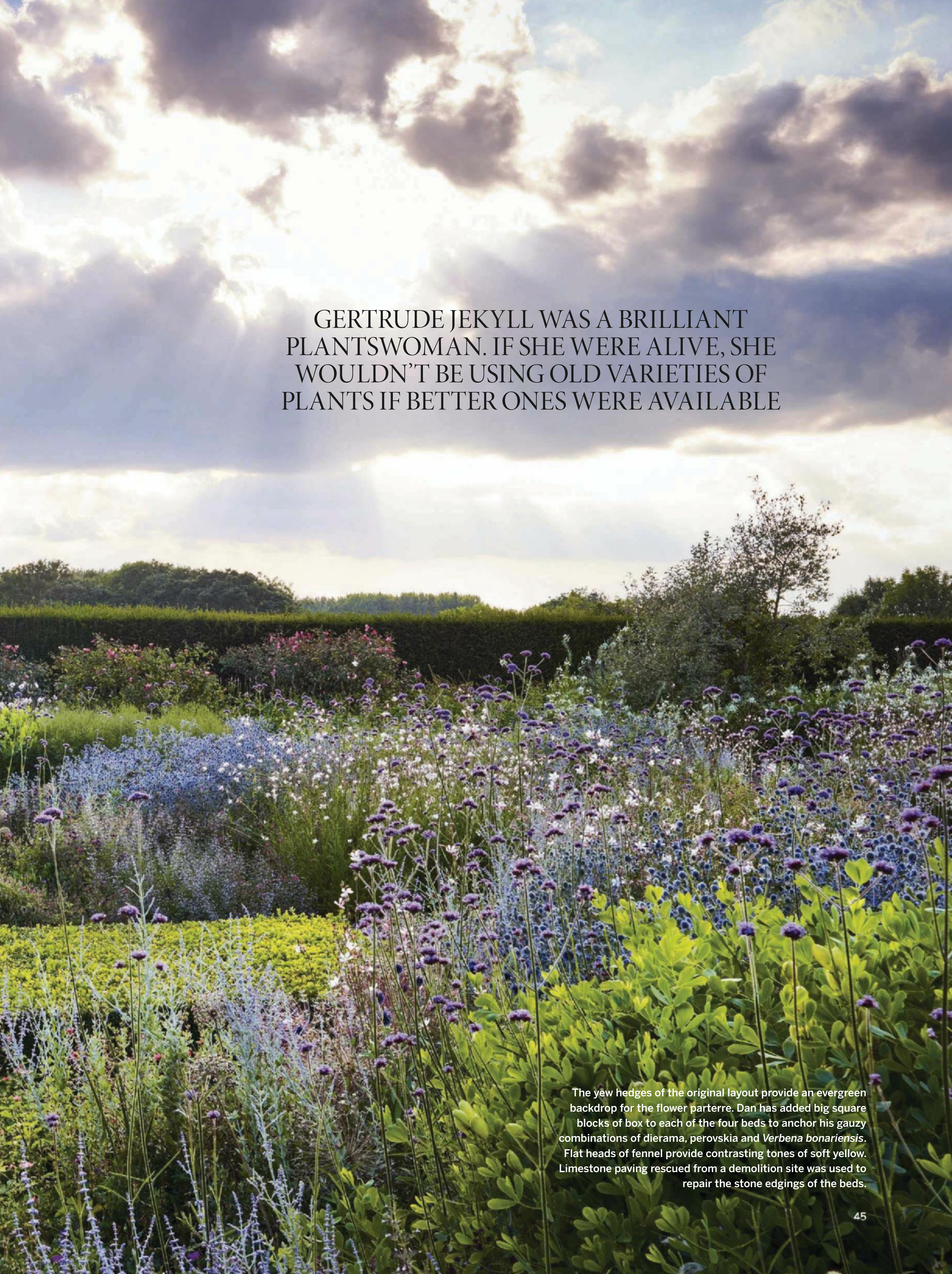


THE WALLED GARDEN HAD SPENT MUCH OF ITS PAST LIFE GRAZED BY A HERD OF SHEEP



The walled kitchen garden, built by Lutyens, had never been fully planted. Dan established a series of long, thin beds, several of them planted with roses such as Gertrude Jekyll (= 'Ausbord') and Munstead Wood (= 'Ausbernard').

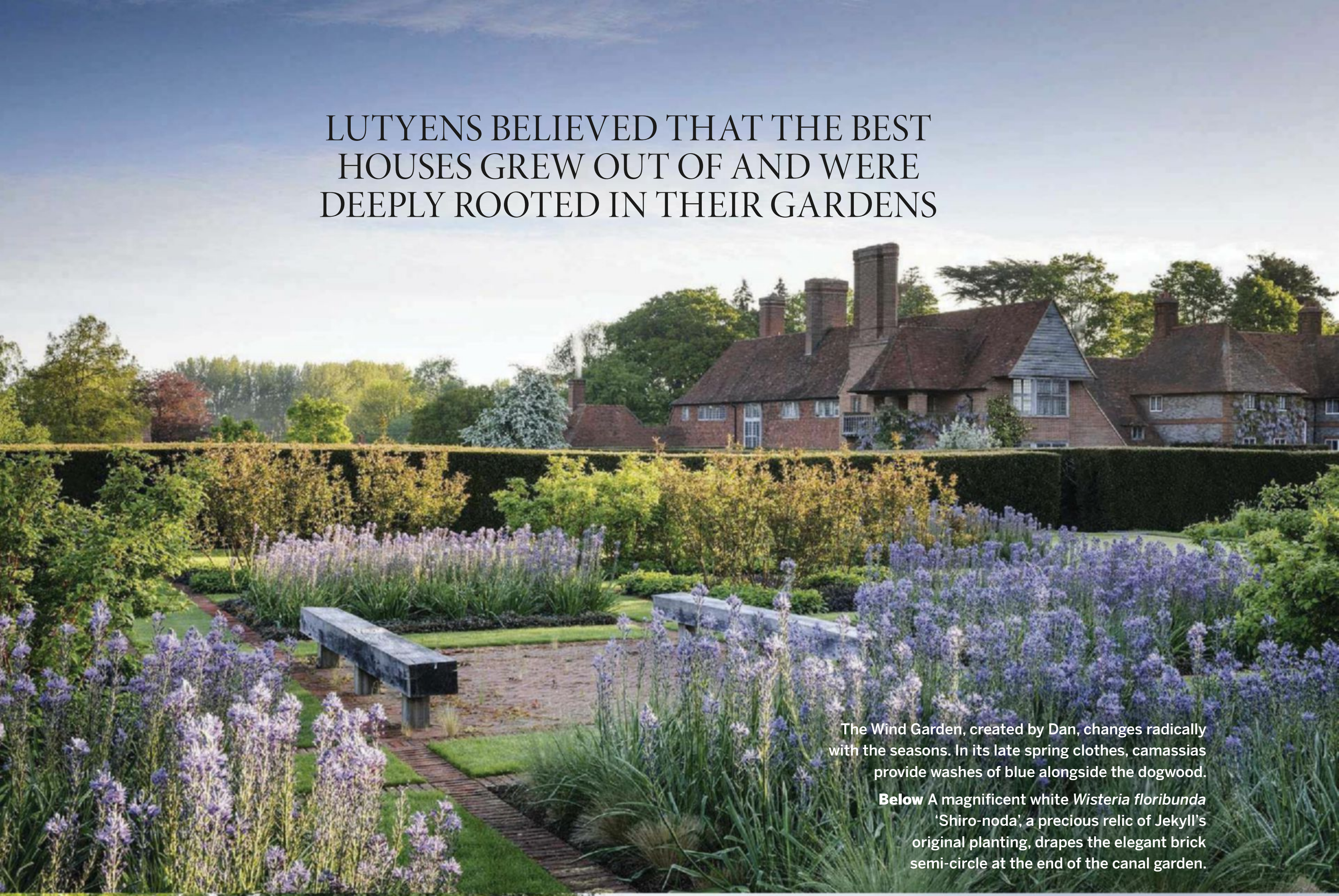
Above The Tank Garden, enclosed on two sides by Lutyens' dramatic buttresses and sweeping roofs, overlooks four parterre flower beds, replanted by Dan.



GERTRUDE JEKYLL WAS A BRILLIANT PLANTSWOMAN. IF SHE WERE ALIVE, SHE WOULDN'T BE USING OLD VARIETIES OF PLANTS IF BETTER ONES WERE AVAILABLE

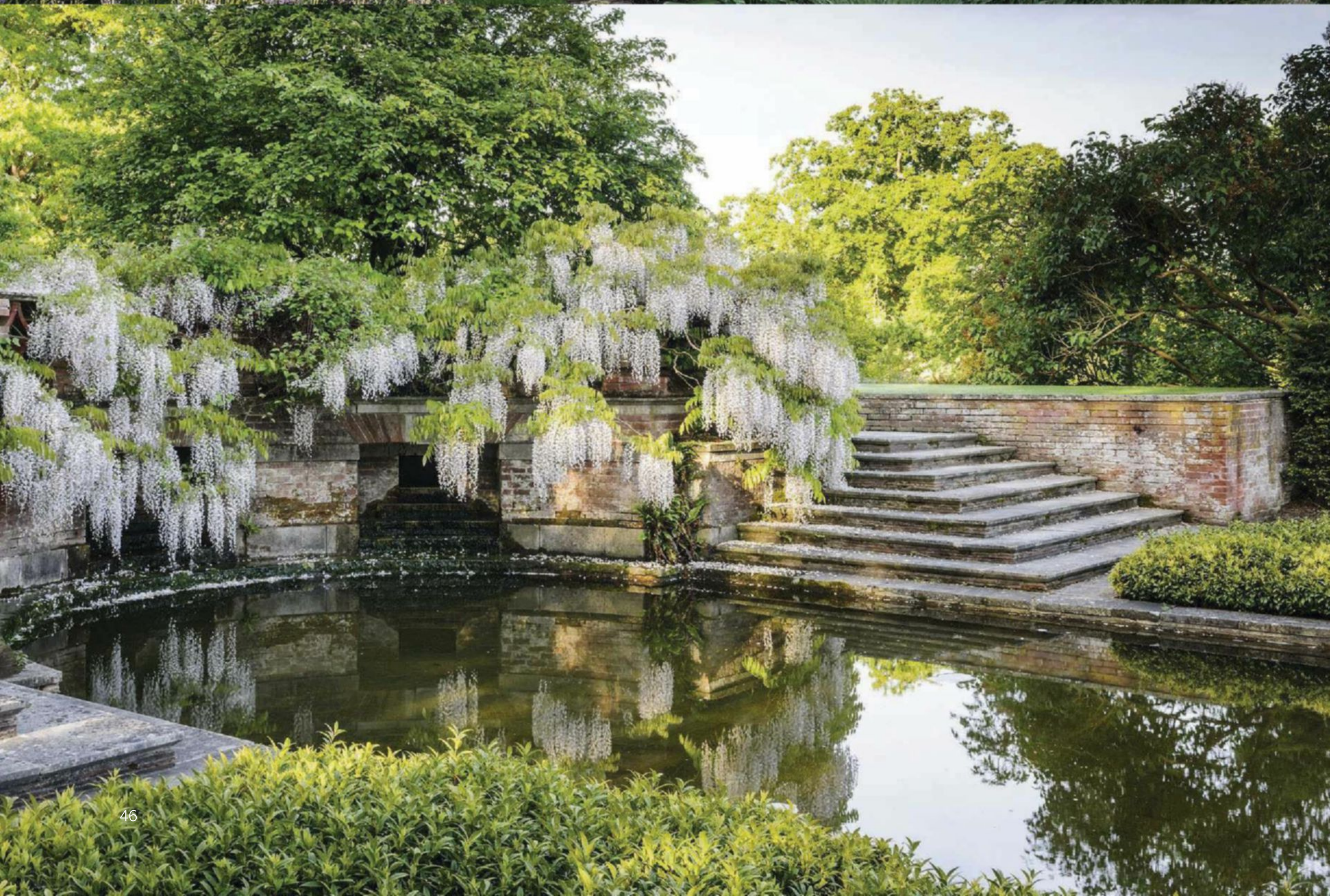
The yew hedges of the original layout provide an evergreen backdrop for the flower parterre. Dan has added big square blocks of box to each of the four beds to anchor his gauzy combinations of dierama, perovskia and *Verbena bonariensis*. Flat heads of fennel provide contrasting tones of soft yellow. Limestone paving rescued from a demolition site was used to repair the stone edgings of the beds.

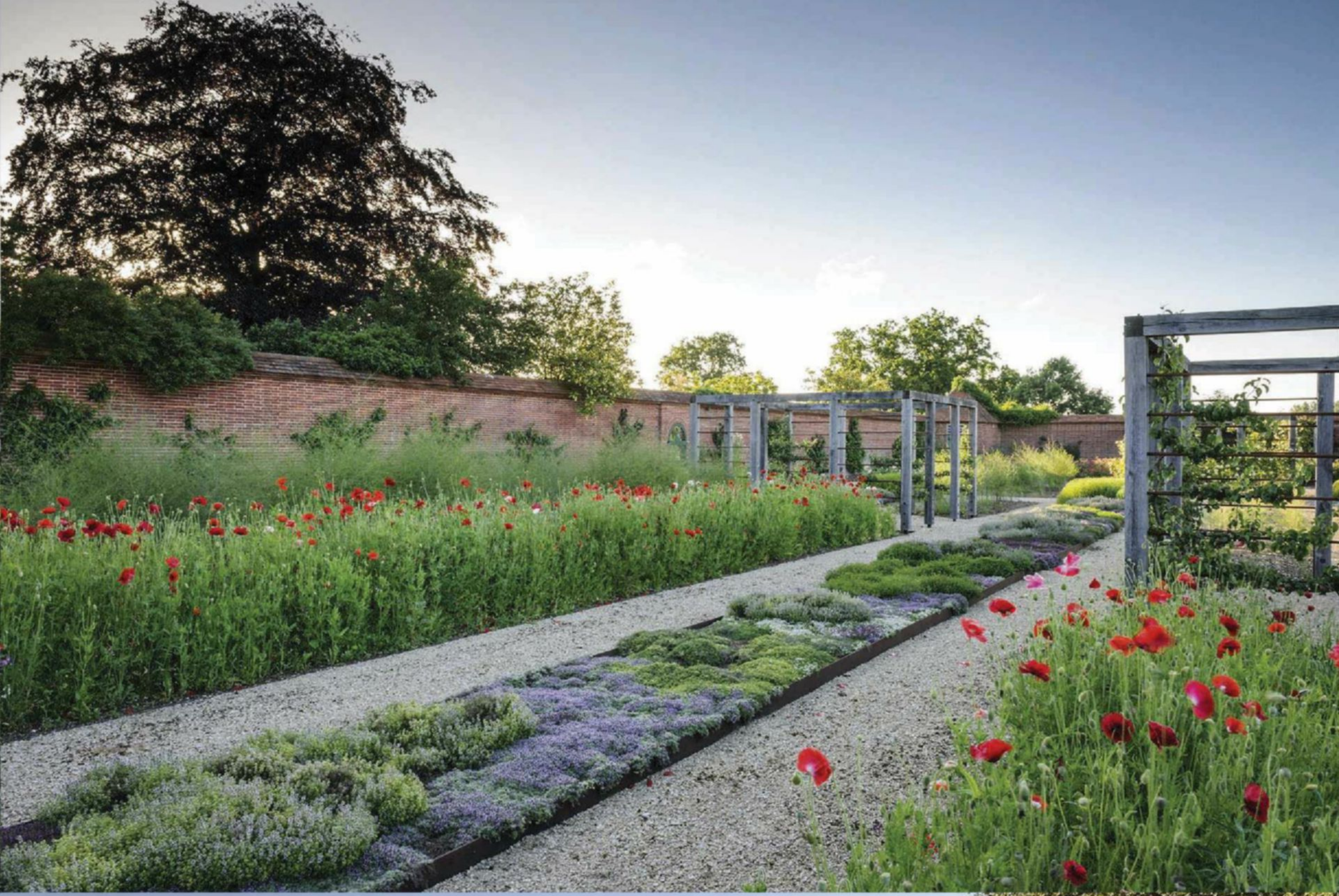
LUTYENS BELIEVED THAT THE BEST HOUSES GREW OUT OF AND WERE DEEPLY ROOTED IN THEIR GARDENS

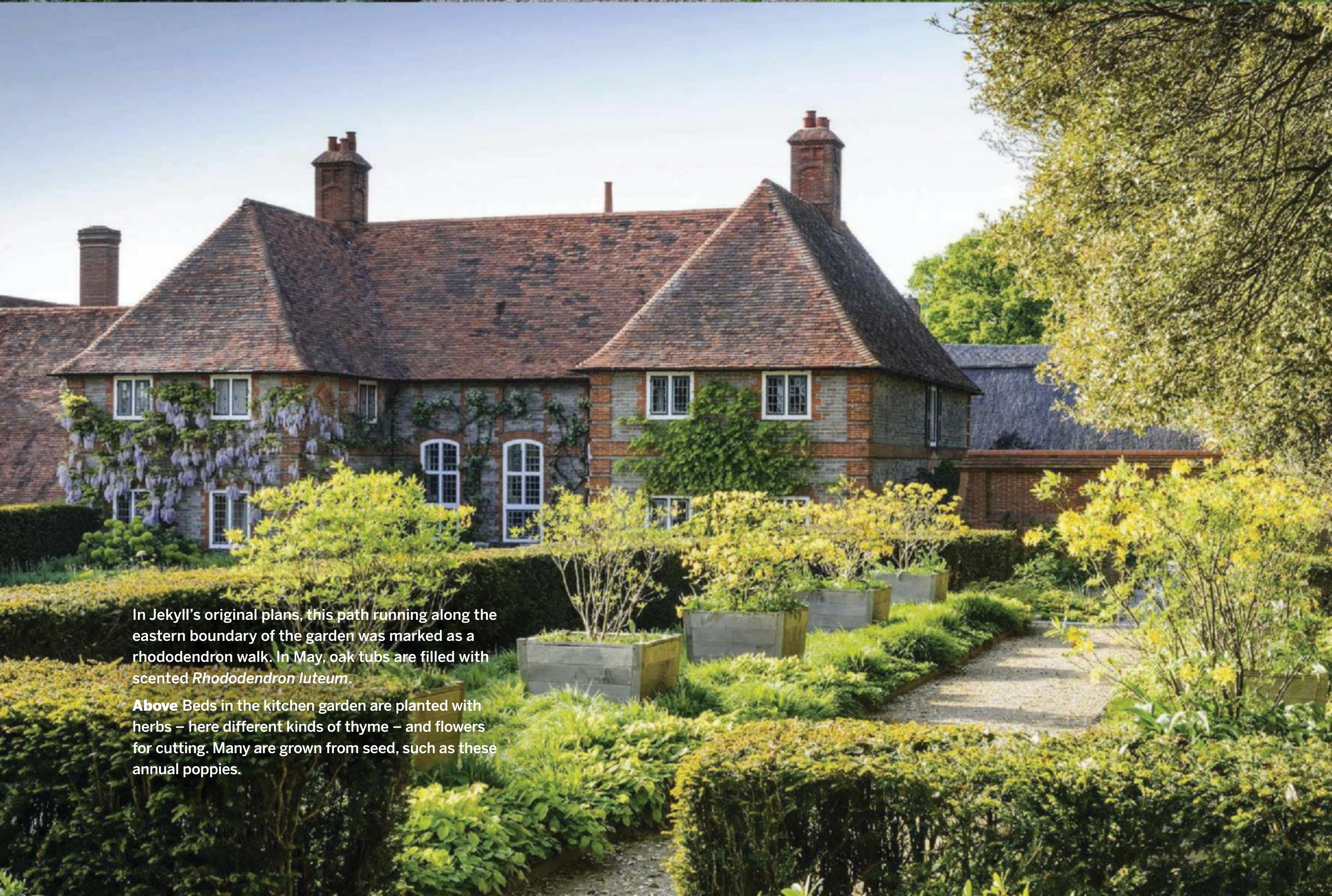


The Wind Garden, created by Dan, changes radically with the seasons. In its late spring clothes, camassias provide washes of blue alongside the dogwood.

Below A magnificent white *Wisteria floribunda* 'Shiro-noda', a precious relic of Jekyll's original planting, drapes the elegant brick semi-circle at the end of the canal garden.







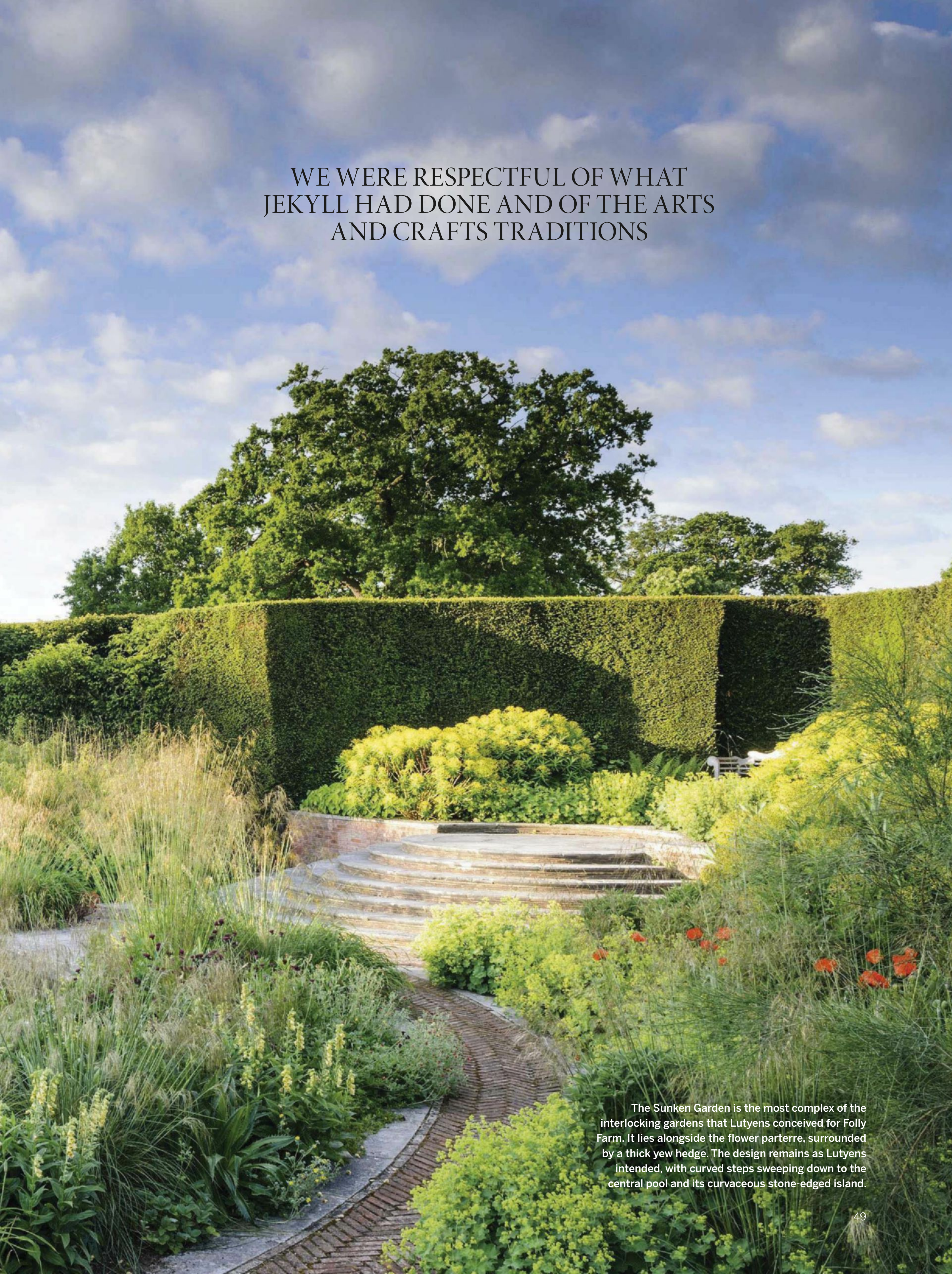
In Jekyll's original plans, this path running along the eastern boundary of the garden was marked as a rhododendron walk. In May, oak tubs are filled with scented *Rhododendron luteum*.

Above Beds in the kitchen garden are planted with herbs – here different kinds of thyme – and flowers for cutting. Many are grown from seed, such as these annual poppies.

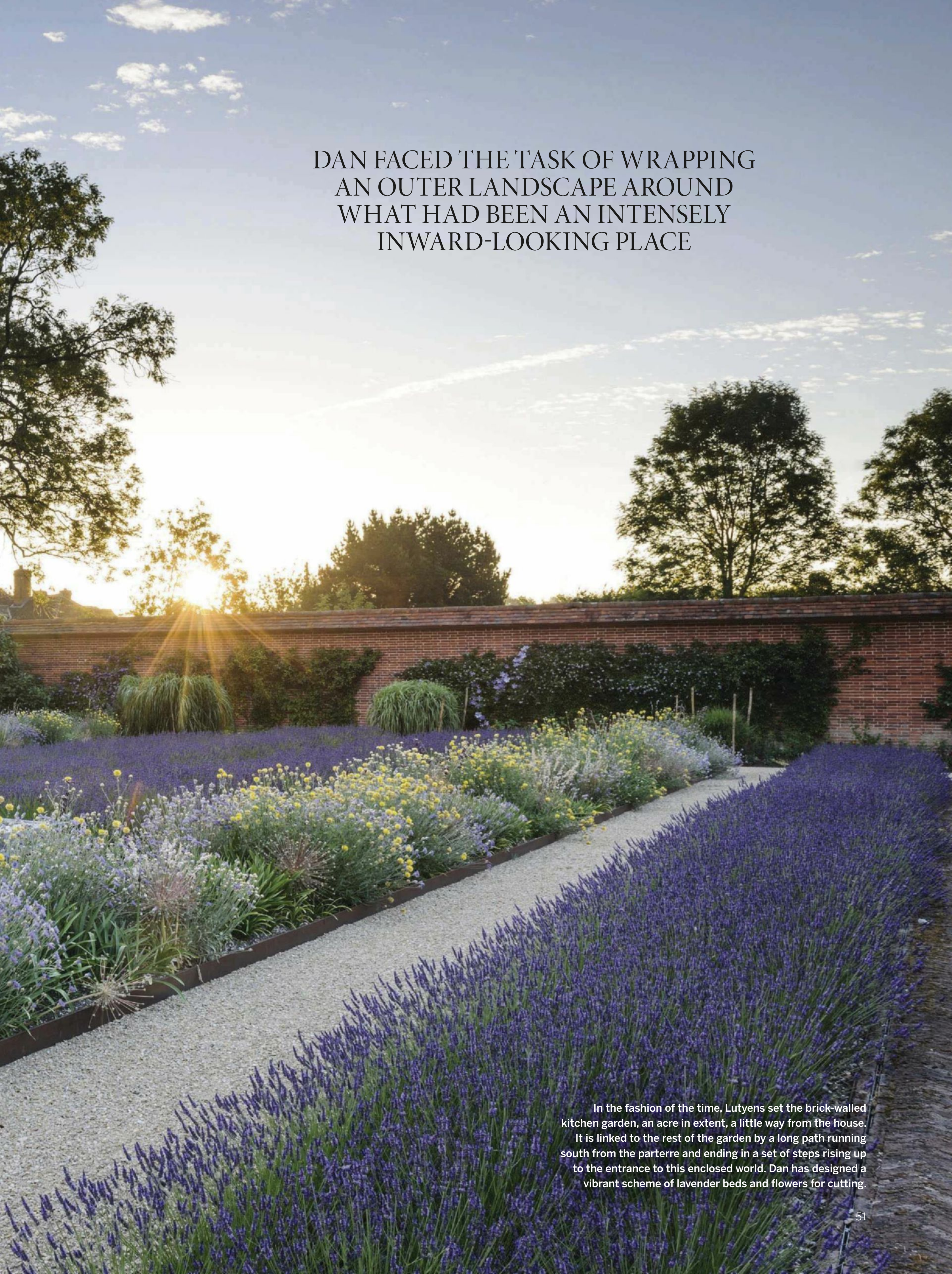
GERTRUDE JEKYLL

Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) was one of the most influential figures in what has been called the Golden Age of gardening in Britain. By the time she met Lutyens she had already been working for several years on her own garden at Munstead Wood, 15 acres of Surrey heath and bracken that she gradually transformed into a series of seasonal gardens. There were peonies, Michaelmas daisies, a rock garden, a spring garden and the famous herbaceous border, 60 metres of it, backed by a high sandstone wall. Here she worked out her theories on colour and rules for planting schemes that are perhaps even better known now than when she was alive. Jekyll's colour schemes were built round a careful crescendo of effect, working from whites and pale greys and blues at the edges, through pinks and pale yellow to a central explosion of hot orange, red and scarlet. She liked to plant white tulips so they rose from a carpet of grey stachys. *Gypsophila* was encouraged to fall forward in a lacy veil over an edging of fat bergenias. In a career spanning 50 years, she made plans for more than 400 gardens, wrote 14 books, and ran a nursery (in her plans she only specified plants she could also sell). How did she do it all? 'By not going to tea parties' was her trenchant reply.

WE WERE RESPECTFUL OF WHAT JEKYLL HAD DONE AND OF THE ARTS AND CRAFTS TRADITIONS



The Sunken Garden is the most complex of the interlocking gardens that Lutyens conceived for Folly Farm. It lies alongside the flower parterre, surrounded by a thick yew hedge. The design remains as Lutyens intended, with curved steps sweeping down to the central pool and its curvaceous stone-edged island.



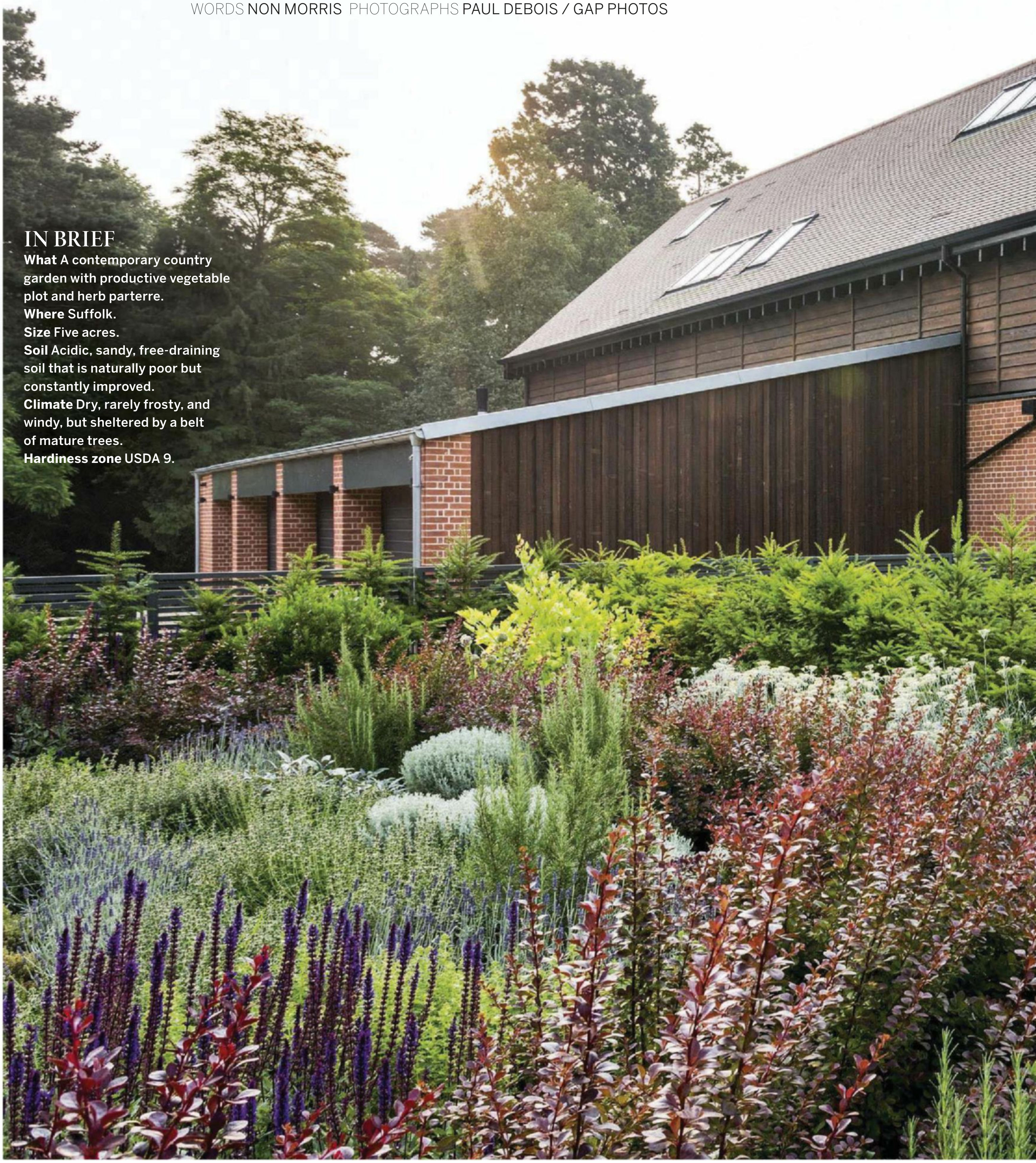
DAN FACED THE TASK OF WRAPPING AN OUTER LANDSCAPE AROUND WHAT HAD BEEN AN INTENSELY INWARD-LOOKING PLACE

In the fashion of the time, Lutyens set the brick-walled kitchen garden, an acre in extent, a little way from the house. It is linked to the rest of the garden by a long path running south from the parterre and ending in a set of steps rising up to the entrance to this enclosed world. Dan has designed a vibrant scheme of lavender beds and flowers for cutting.

HERBAL ESSENCE

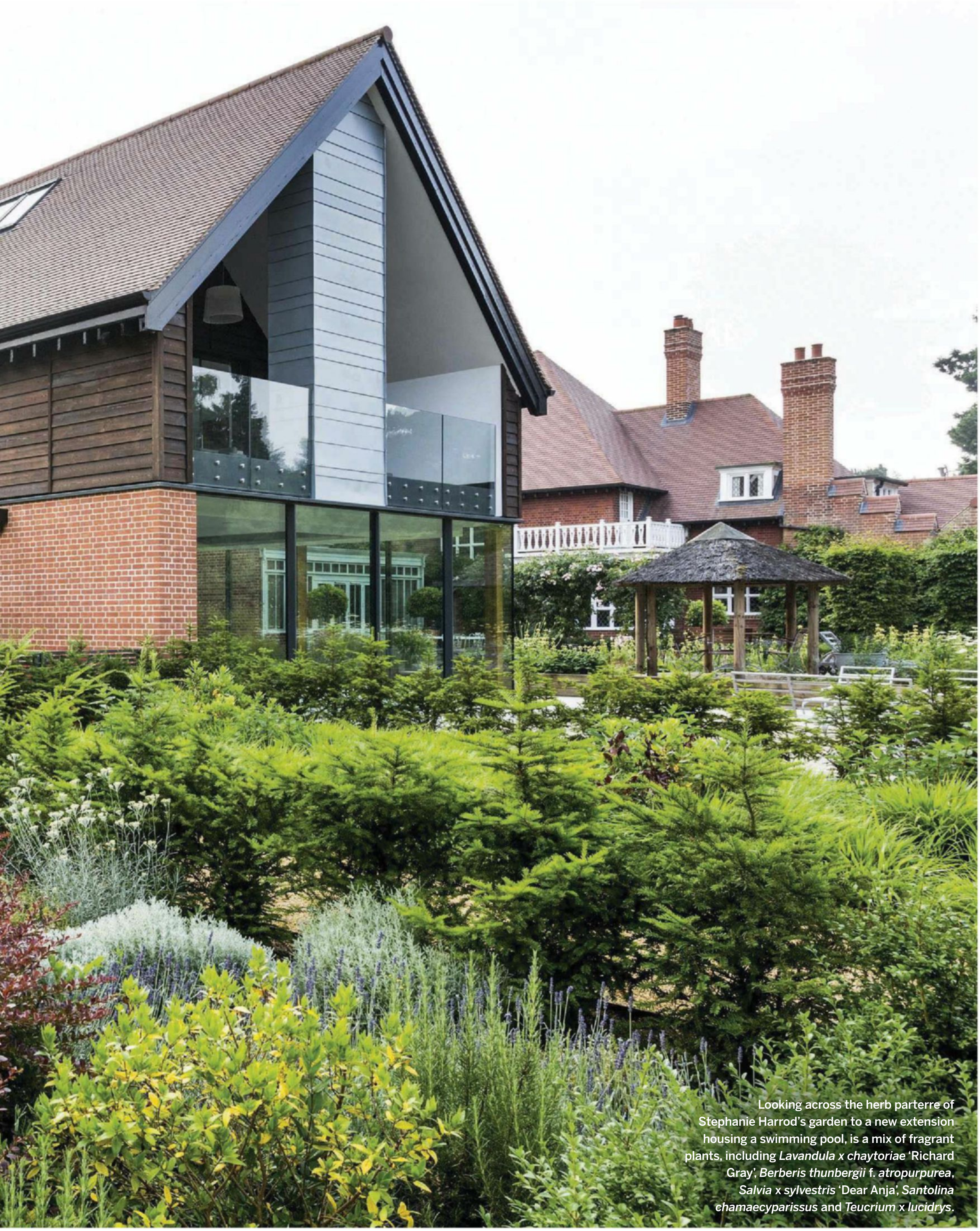
Formality meets practicality in a contemporary country garden close to the coast designed by Thomas Hoblyn

WORDS NON MORRIS PHOTOGRAPHS PAUL DEBOIS / GAP PHOTOS

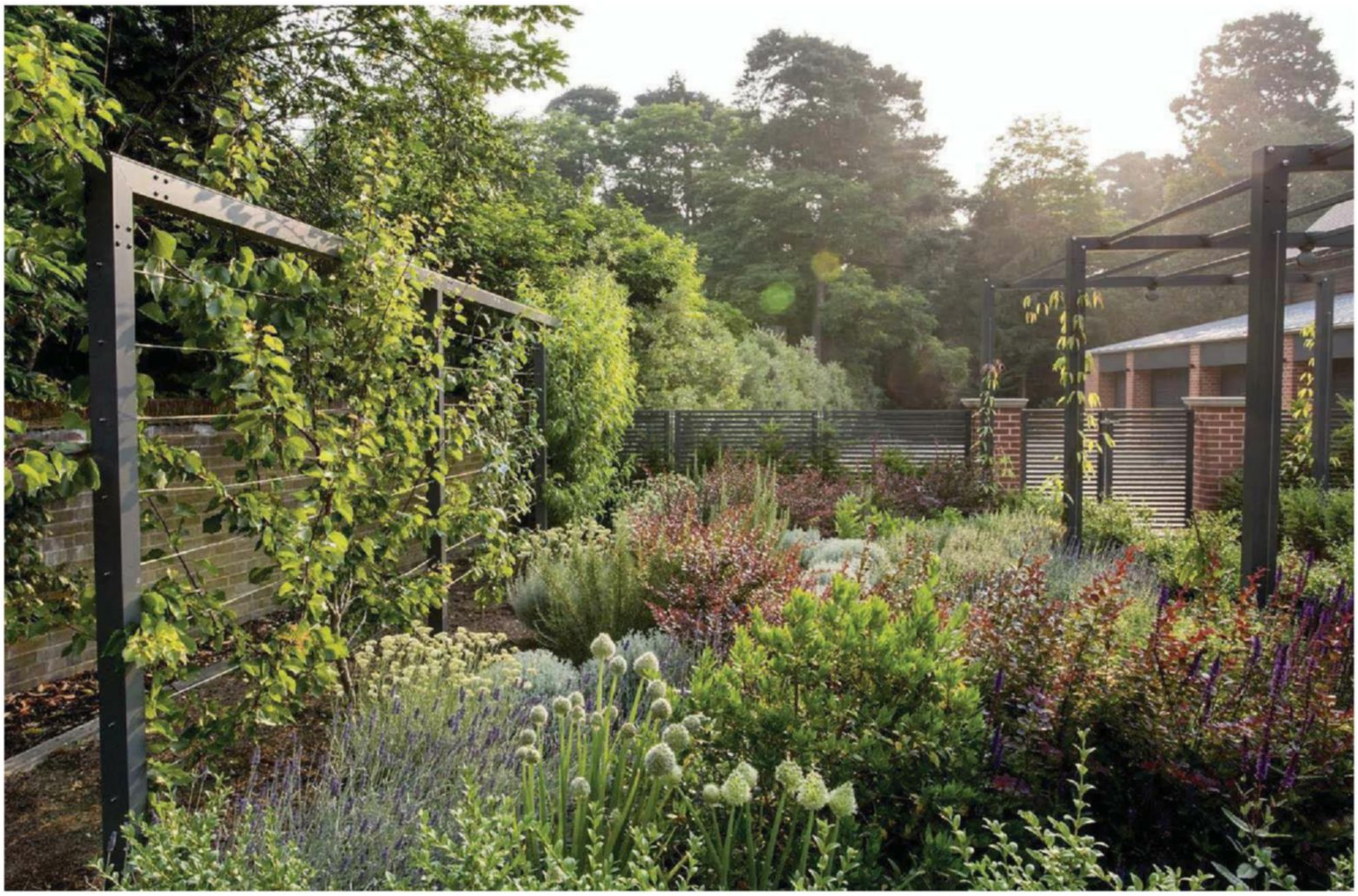


IN BRIEF

What A contemporary country garden with productive vegetable plot and herb parterre.
Where Suffolk.
Size Five acres.
Soil Acidic, sandy, free-draining soil that is naturally poor but constantly improved.
Climate Dry, rarely frosty, and windy, but sheltered by a belt of mature trees.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.



Looking across the herb parterre of Stephanie Harrod's garden to a new extension housing a swimming pool, is a mix of fragrant plants, including *Lavandula x chaytoriae* 'Richard Gray', *Berberis thunbergii* f. *atropurpurea*, *Salvia* x *sylvestris* 'Dear Anja', *Santolina chamaecyparissus* and *Teucrium x lucidrys*.



Above In the New Garden, the aluminium peach tree frames, contemporary pergola, fence and gates, all powder-coated in anthracite grey, are bespoke commissions from Harrod Horticultural. On the frames are fan-trained 'Peregrine' peach and Tomcot apricots, both on Saint Julian rootstock. Plants in the herb parterre include *Allium schoenoprasum* f. *albiflorum* (white chives), *Lavandula* x *chaytoriae* 'Richard Gray', *Berberis thunbergii* f. *atropurpurea*, *Salvia* x *sylvestris* 'Dear Anja', *Santolina chamaecyparissus* and *Teucrium* x *lucidrys*.

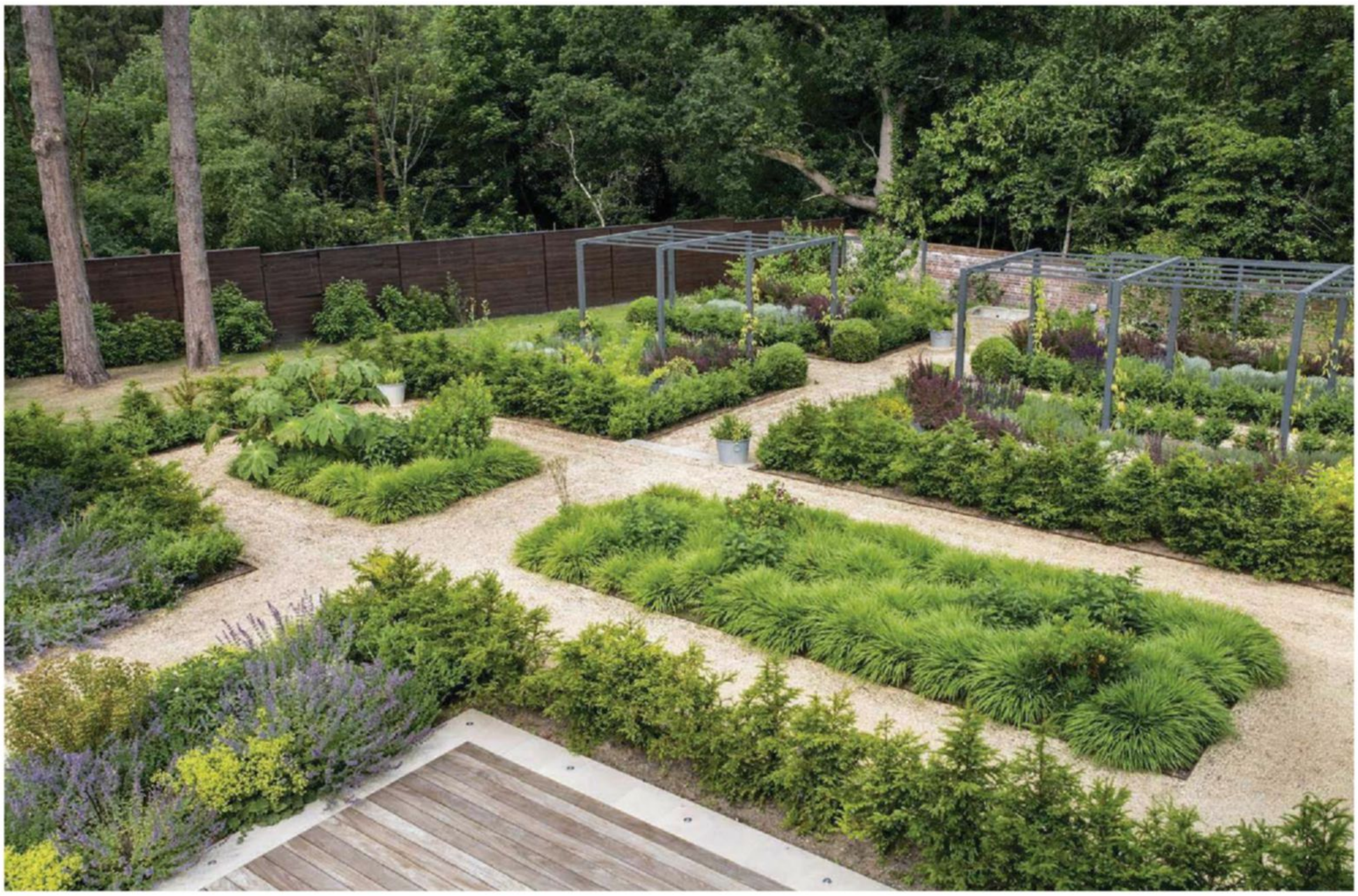
Thomas Hoblyn thinks of Stephanie Harrod's garden as a sheltered, peaceful island right on the edge of the blustery Suffolk coast. "She is the hardest-working person I know," he says as he describes the evolution of the garden that belongs to the driving force behind the company Harrod Horticultural. "The brief was to provide somewhere to relax but Stephanie wanted a place that would provide opportunities to test products."

Thomas was introduced to Stephanie ten years ago at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show when he won his first Gold Medal (he has gone on to design six award-winning Chelsea gardens). Using plants from his Hampton Court show garden, he created a relaxed, informal border around the circular pond in her Suffolk garden. "I wanted something contemporary, but it had to work with the traditional layout of the rest of the garden. I wanted herbs and formality and for it to look good all year round," Stephanie recalls. Thomas introduced lacy white umbels of *Selinum wallichianum*, airy *Sanguisorba officinalis* with its tiny claret heads on wiry stems and the unusual bright-pink spires of *Lactuca bourgaei*. By the time Stephanie built an extension to her early 20th-century house, she knew who to turn to transform the space around it. "This part of the garden was a jungle," says Thomas. "Three wonderful Scots pines stuck up through a layer of invading *Rhododendron ponticum*. The garden needed to look good both from the low level of the new indoor swimming pool and from the much-used veranda on the first floor of the new extension."

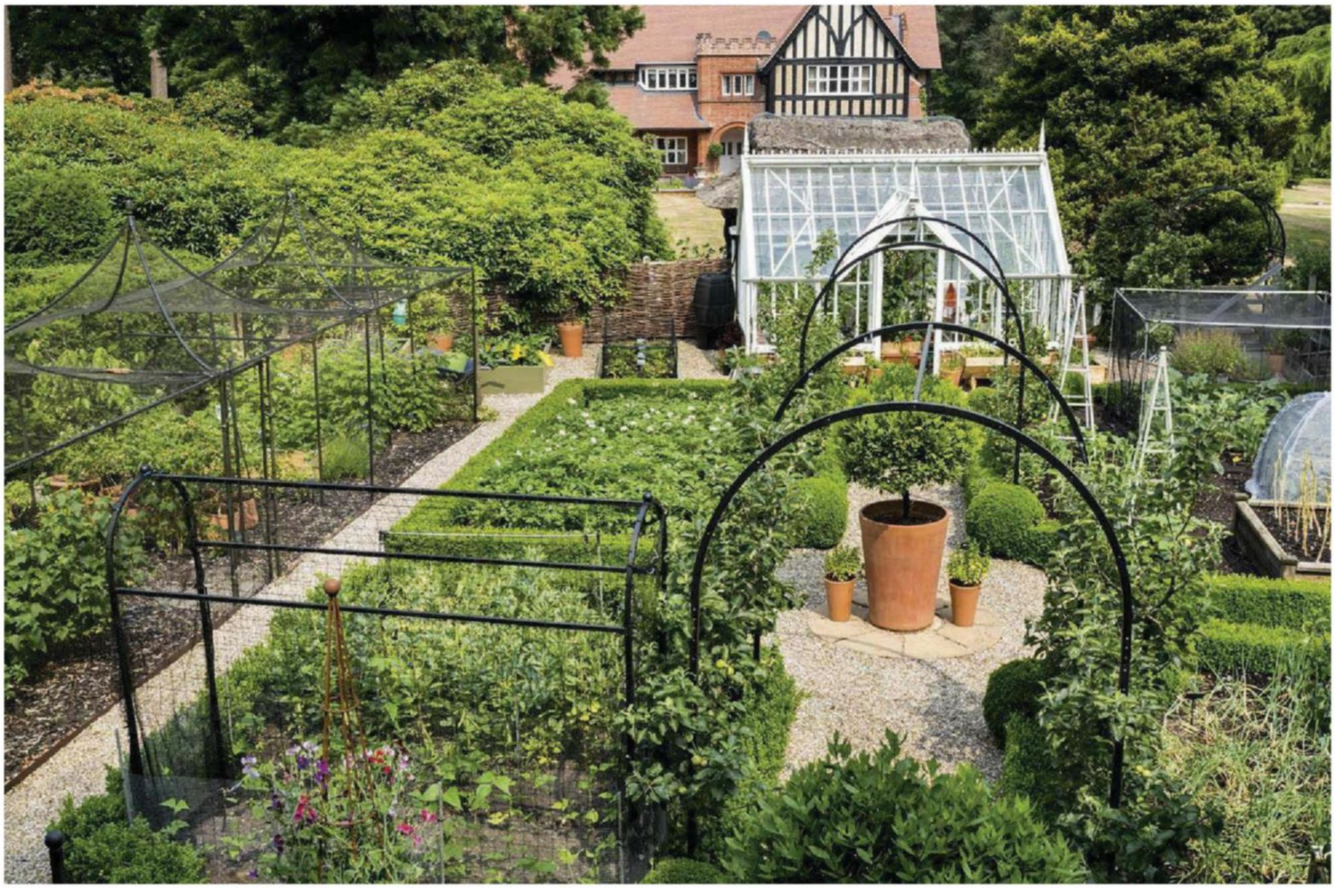
His first move was to create a strong structural framework, using yew and box, which will be clipped to form a smart, tiered hedge when the yew is 1.2m high and the box has reached 80cm. He loves the hedge's contrasting darker and lighter greens and has ensured that there is a third, even brighter, green nearby when the rectangle of low-stilted hornbeam – an element that adds handsome architectural heft to the design – comes into leaf.

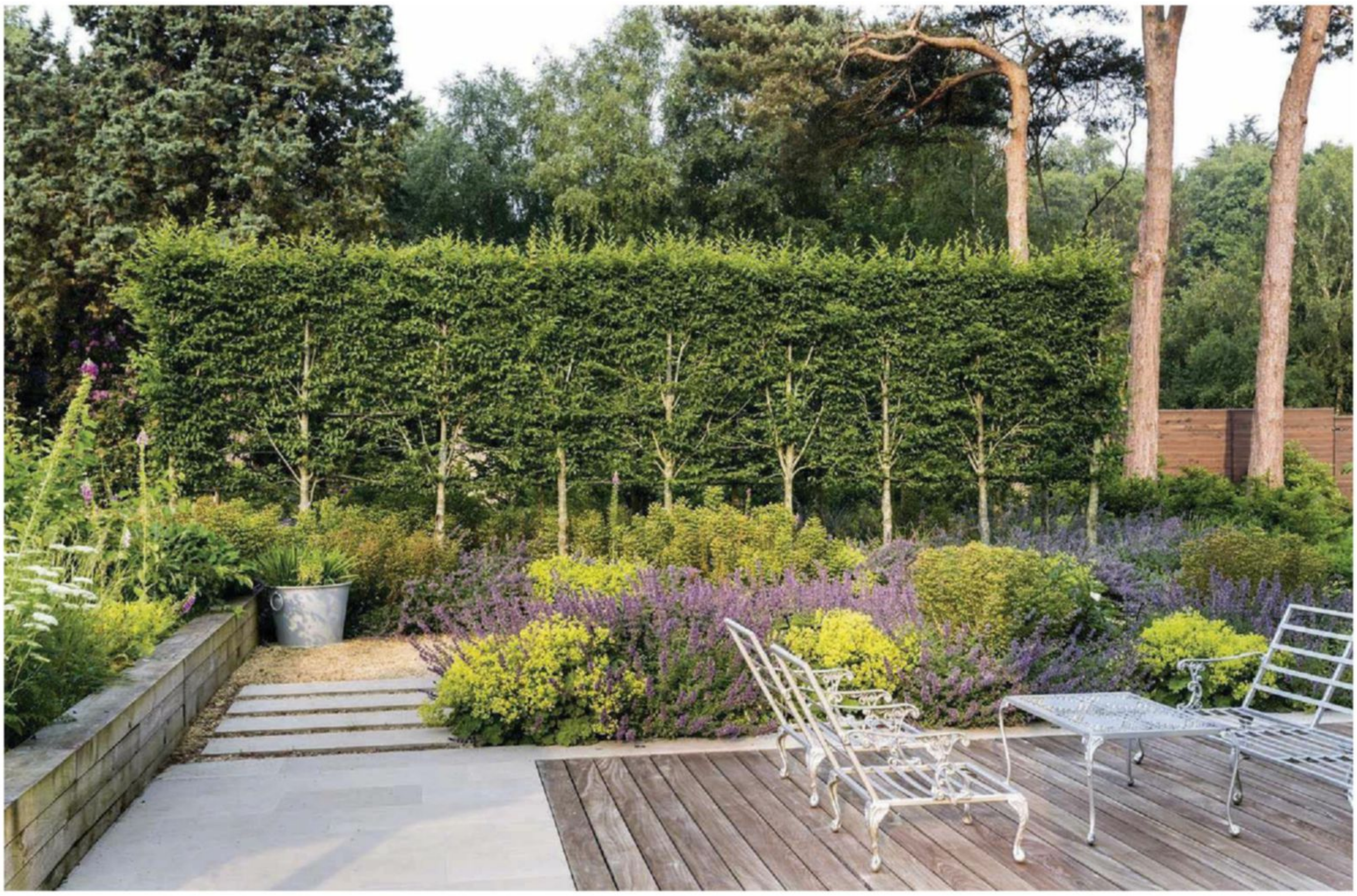
A herb parterre – a sort of contemporary knot garden made of sinuous loops of santolina, berberis, lavender, teucrium and salvia – establishes an aromatic, richly coloured tapestry on either side of a clean-lined, dark-grey aluminium pergola by Harrod Horticultural. The spaces in between the parterre's permanent planting are filled with swathes of herbs, such as borage and parsley, and the dramatic beetroot-red leaves of *Atriplex hortensis* var. *rubra*. Along one side is Stephanie's new pride and joy: a stretch of free-standing peach frames, designed with input ▷

Above Looking towards the house with its central orangery, the circular pond is partly hidden by a soft mix of *Selinum wallichianum*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*, *Cephalaria gigantea* and *Digitalis purpurea*. A row of low-stilted hornbeam and box-clipped beech trees create more formal privacy for the house.
Below The informal planting of lacy, white milk parsley, *Selinum wallichianum*, around the thatched breeze house and its terrace creates a relaxed space for Stephanie and her family to sit and enjoy the garden. *Digitalis purpurea* planted in among the milk parsley add an occasional punch of pink colour.



Above The iroko and limestone terrace in the New Garden is edged with soft borders of *Nepeta racemosa* 'Walker's Low', *Alchemilla mollis* and *Euphorbia characias* subps. *wulfenii on* one side and young box and yew hedging on the other.
Below The well-ordered kitchen garden with box-edged beds, pergola walkway, ornamental fruit cages and obelisks by Harrod Horticultural and an Alitex greenhouse. The handsome terracotta long tom with a clipped bay tree in the centre of the garden is from Yorkshire Flowerpots.





Above The terrace, which adjoins the indoor swimming pool, is made of iroko and limestone. Contemporary stepping stones lead to a gravel path, which is edged with a mix of herbs and soft planting, including *Nepeta racemosa* 'Walker's Low', *Alchemilla mollis* and *Origanum* 'Rosenkuppel'. The low-stilted hornbeam rectangle behind is underplanted with *Nepeta racemosa* 'Walker's Low', *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii* and *Alchemilla mollis*. Behind a stand of three Scots pines draws the eye beyond the terrace.

ROBUST PLANTS FOR A CONTEMPORARY HERB PARTERRE

Thomas has used box throughout the garden, planted against yew to be clipped into stepped hedges, so that the bright green of the box will contrast with the deep, green of the yew. For the herb parterre, he chose plants that would be tough alternatives.

Teucrium* x *lucidrys "One of my top tips. A pretty, indestructible, evergreen perennial with aromatic, dark-green leaves and clusters of bee-friendly pink flowers – it is brilliant for lining a pathway."

***Lavandula* x *chaytoriae* 'Richard Gray'** "A really neat, compact lavender that looks good year-round, with felted grey leaves and sweetly scented, rich-purple flowers."

***Salvia* x *sylvestris* 'Dear Anja'** "When it goes over, 'Dear Anja' looks good for much longer than the much-used 'Mainacht'."

Berberis thunbergii* f. *atropurpurea "A bit of an experiment, but I love its vibrant red autumn colour. *Berberis* has an old-fashioned reputation but it is time to look at it afresh."

▷ from Thomas – for which she has created smart, removable protective covers from UV-stabilised fabric. "The results are stunning; we had the most delicious peaches and nectarines last year."

Simply planted rectangles of the lush, lime-green grass *Hakonechloa macra*, punctuated with the huge leaves of the exotic-looking *Tetrapanax papyrifer* 'Rex', draw the eye towards the monumental stand of three Scots pines. These all-green borders create a calm transition between the herb parterre and the softly planted borders around the new terrace leading out from the swimming pool. The terrace is paved in the same warm grey limestone that was used around the pool. "The colour was important as it needs to feel welcoming but work with the iroko decking, which will silver over time."

For the borders, Thomas started with his favourite combination of Prussian blue (*Nepeta racemosa* 'Walker's Low'), burnt orange (*Kniphofia* 'Tawny King') and lime green (*Alchemilla mollis*). This long-lasting understorey is home to an exhilarating display of pink tulips in spring (the rich-pink 'Royal Acres' and the paler 'Montreux'), followed by the luscious, crimson-flecked peony 'Festiva Maxima' in early summer.

Thomas helped Stephanie design the well-ordered kitchen garden where one of Harrod Horticultural's original pergola designs is now a lovely dense arch of pears against a clipped yew hedge. This is a creative laboratory that never stands still. Both Thomas and Stephanie assure me that it is a project that is not yet complete. ☐

Epimediums can make wonderful groundcovering plants for lightening up a shady areas, and have flowers that range in colour from vivid pinks and purples to the pure-white of this *Epimedium* x *youngianum* 'Niveum' (see page 63).

JASON INGRAM / GAP PHOTOS

EPIMEDIUMS

New introductions in epimediums are increasing their popularity as well as reinvigorating enthusiasm for the more established cultivars

WORDS **SALLY GREGSON** PHOTOGRAPHS **SIETSKE DE VRIES**

Every year at Chelsea there seems to be some must-have plant to beguile us – the latest bearded iris; the newest geranium – making its debut to a fanfare of praise. But only very occasionally do new species emerge. Yet, somehow, over the past ten to 20 years a deluge of new epimediums have slipped into commerce almost unannounced. They're being introduced by western plant hunters who are, exploring the remote valleys of the Sichuan and Yunnan provinces of China. The resulting plants are dramatic with larger flowers in different forms and myriad colours: a world away from the epimediums that traditionally fill those difficult spaces in dry shade. Their introduction has inspired garden designers to try out and use not only some of these new forms, but to re-assess those old, useful plants whose delicate spring flowers hover above and below bronze, evergreen foliage that few weeds can penetrate.

In the early 19th century the German botanist Philipp Franz von Siebold sent some of the epimediums he had collected while living in Japan to the Hortus Botanicus at Leiden and the Ghent University Botanical Garden, which today holds the reference collection for all epimediums. Modern breeders have developed these acid-loving Japanese species to produce new forms with larger flowers. The delicate, bell-shaped flowers are predominantly pink, purple or white, although *Epimedium grandiflorum* 'Yellow Princess' has lemon and white flowers: an exception that proves the rule.

Epimedium grandiflorum crossed with *E. diphyllum*, produces the hybrid *E.* x *youngianum*. These exquisite flowers look like little silk tassels with few, if any, spurs, and they too are acid lovers. Plants such as *E.* x *youngianum* 'Niveum' have entirely white flowers like snowflakes, on wiry red stems, and those of *E.* x *youngianum* 'Tamabotan' have tousled, double, pink flowers. They, too, are herbaceous, but the leaves often flush red in autumn before dying away.

Gardeners on alkaline soils have found that the Japanese species grow very well in pots of ericaceous compost, in a shady corner of the terrace. They only need to be tipped out and divided every few years, and friends are made with gifts of the surplus plants.

However, it's the new Chinese species and their hybrids that are currently wowing the horticultural world. Twenty years ago the late William Stearn began systematically to rationalise the entire genus, and although, he found many anomalies, his work resulted in naming 54 species. There have been very many more additions since, not least from the great Japanese plant collector, Mikinori Ogisu, and American plant-hunter Darrell Probst. Probst has also bred some spectacular crosses, including 'Pink Champagne' (right), with wide, pink sepals over deeper pink centres like hang-gliding spiders over a mat of dark, mottled foliage.

In this country, many of the new species were distributed through plantsman Roy Lancaster to a handful of British growers, including Robin White of the former Blackthorn Nursery. His crosses resulted in glorious plants, such as the marmalade-coloured *E.* 'Amber Queen' and *E.* 'Pink Elf' whose swarms of two-tone pink flowers often repeat throughout the summer. In the Netherlands and Belgium, a number of enthusiastic nurserymen are developing startling new hybrids, such as Koen Van Poucke's *E.* 'Red Maximum'. They are all selecting for large flowers that are held well above their gorgeously marked young leaves, and are also developing new colours: soft apricot and lavender, browns and reds, and two-toned flowers. In the UK nurserymen are crossing the large-flowered Chinese hybrids with the spreading forms. All are working on making these exciting new plants available to an appreciative gardening world. □

- Author Sally Gregson is the owner of Mill Cottage Plants in Somerset, and the author of *The Plant Lover's Guide to Epimediums* (Timber Press, 2015). Her recommendations for the best epimediums can be found over the next five pages.

Tuingoed Foltz
Tuingoed Foltz is a nursery in the north of the Netherlands run by Andries Bierling and Bob Foltz (above) that specialises in shade-loving plants and has several excellent plant collections, including the epimediums featured here.
tuingoedfoltz.nl

PLANT PROFILE

What Epimediums are low-growing, mostly herbaceous, woodland plants with pretty spider-like flowers in spring. Also known as bishop's hats, barrenworts or fairy wings.

Origins Italy and southern central Europe, Algeria, Turkey, Iran, northern India, China, Korea and Japan. There are increasing numbers of species being discovered in the remote valleys of China's Sichuan and Yunnan provinces by modern plant hunters. As a result European and American growers are producing larger-flowered hybrids.

Season Flowering in spring among and above the well-coloured new leaves, many are great evergreens, some providing good groundcover.

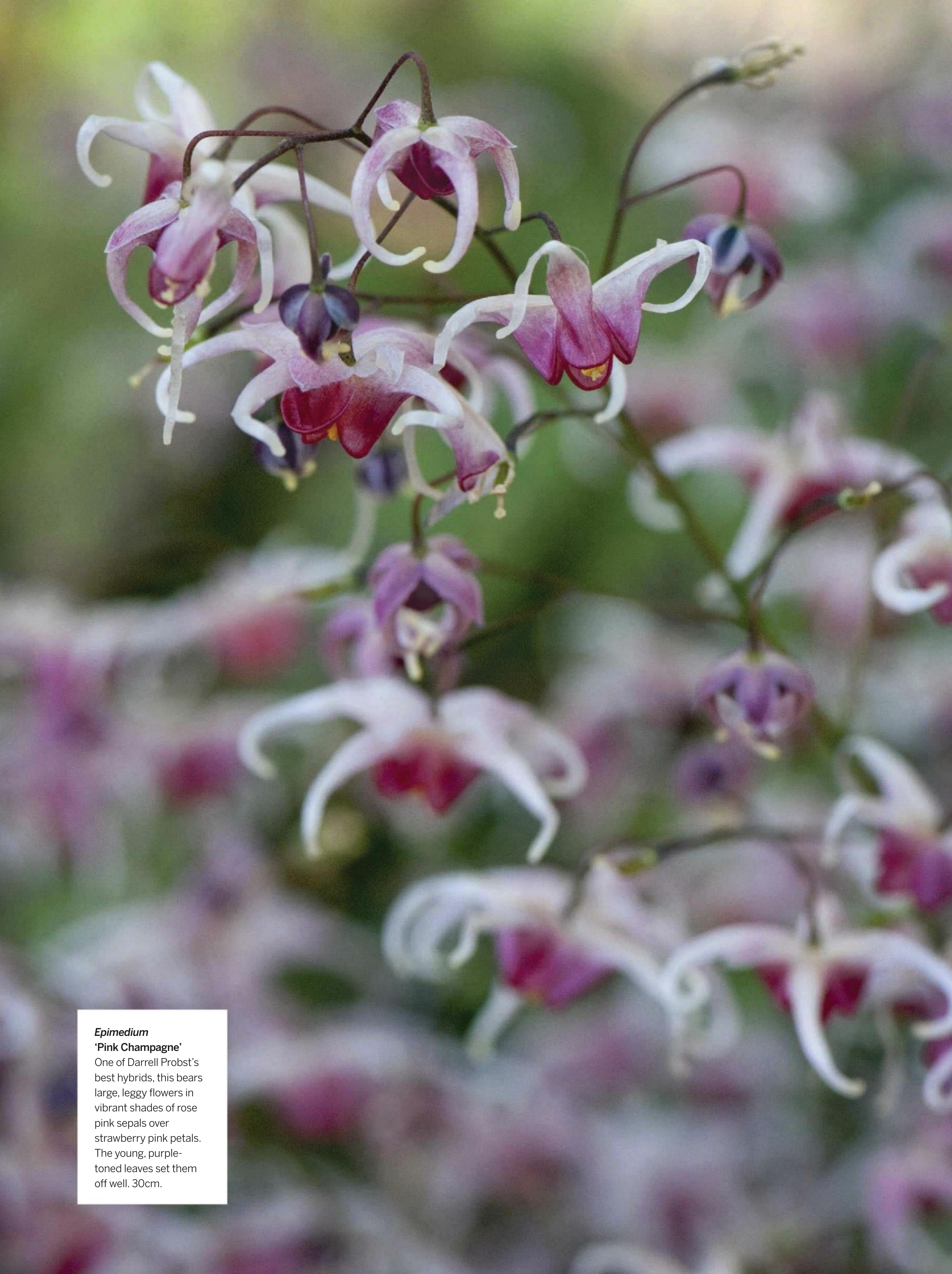
Size Most are around 15cm tall in leaf, with flowers reaching to 45cm. Foliage ranges in height from 6cm to 20cm, and while in flower they can reach up to 1.3m. Individual flowers are usually 1-3cm across.

Conditions Moist, well-drained, rich soil in light shade, although the traditional forms will grow and spread in dry shade. The Japanese species prefer an acid soil.

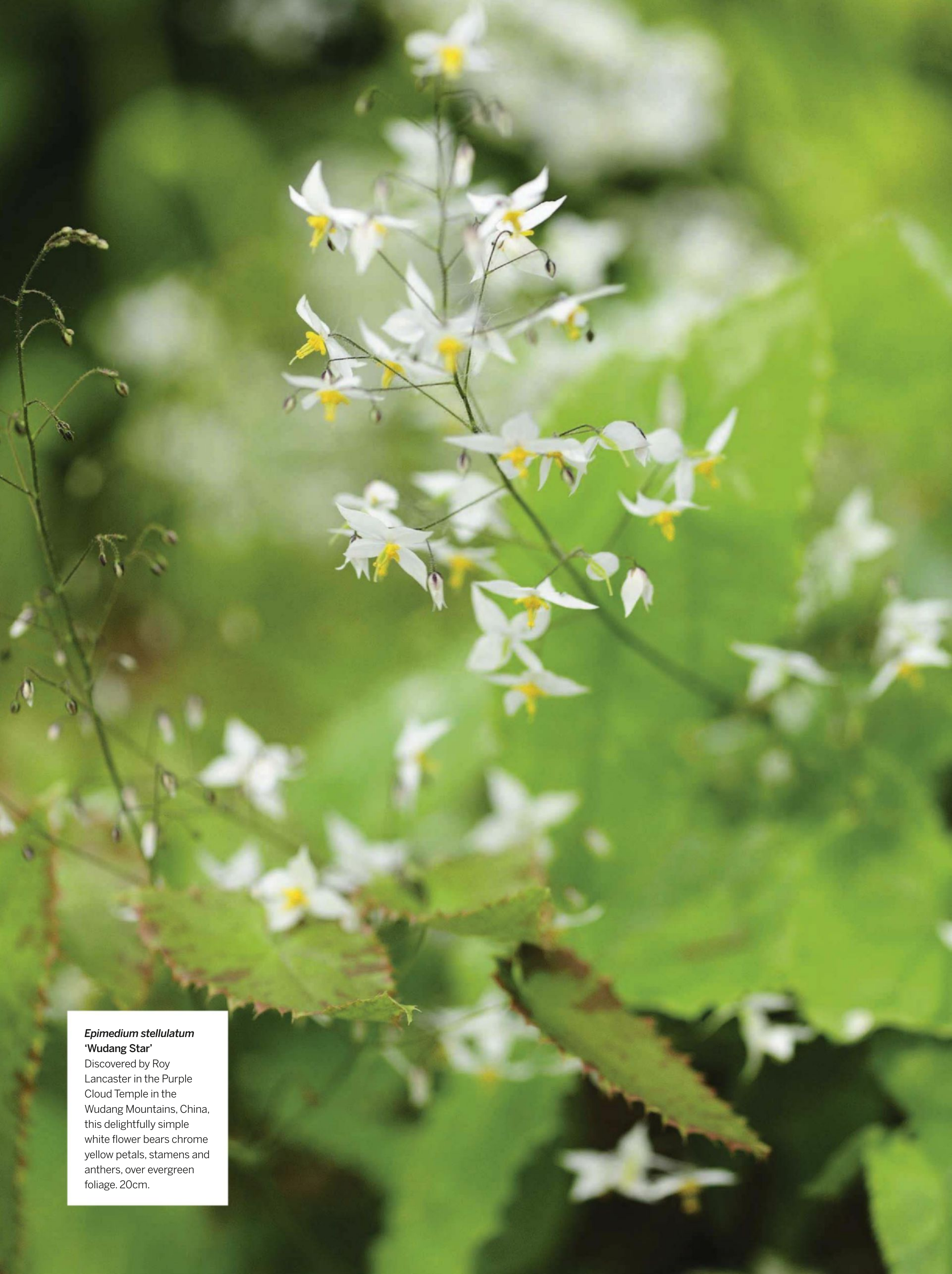
Hardiness Epimediums are generally hardy throughout the UK and northern Europe. Most of those featured here have an RHS hardiness rating of between H4 (-10ºC to -5ºC) and H7 (colder than -20ºC), and are suitable for gardens in USDA zones 4a-8b.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
[†] Hardiness ratings given where available.

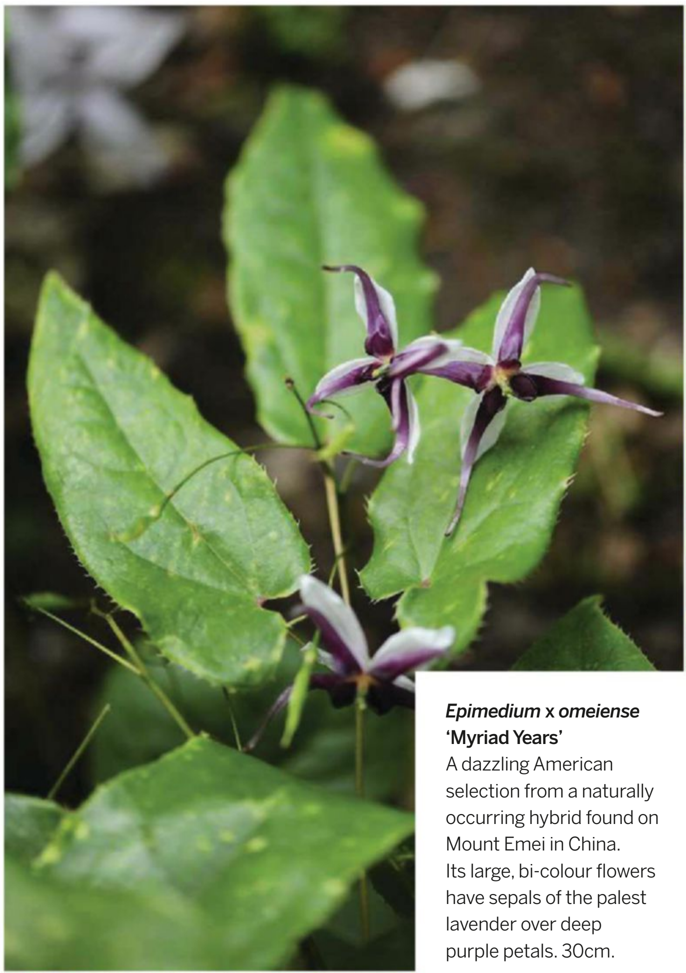
GAP PHOTOS / MARG COUSENS



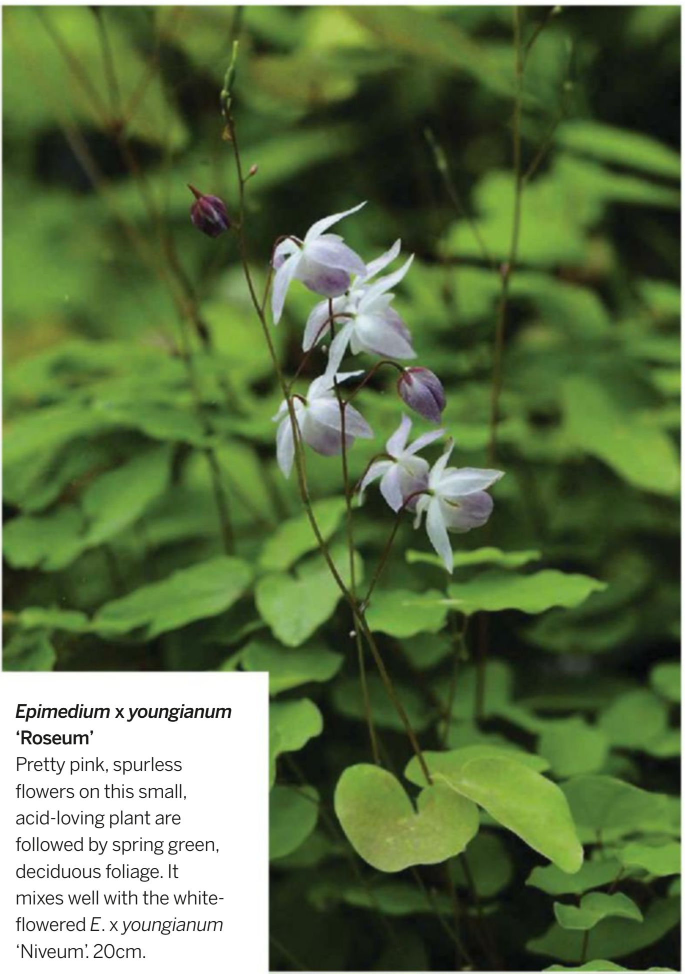
Epimedium
'Pink Champagne'
One of Darrell Probst's best hybrids, this bears large, leggy flowers in vibrant shades of rose pink sepals over strawberry pink petals. The young, purple-toned leaves set them off well. 30cm.



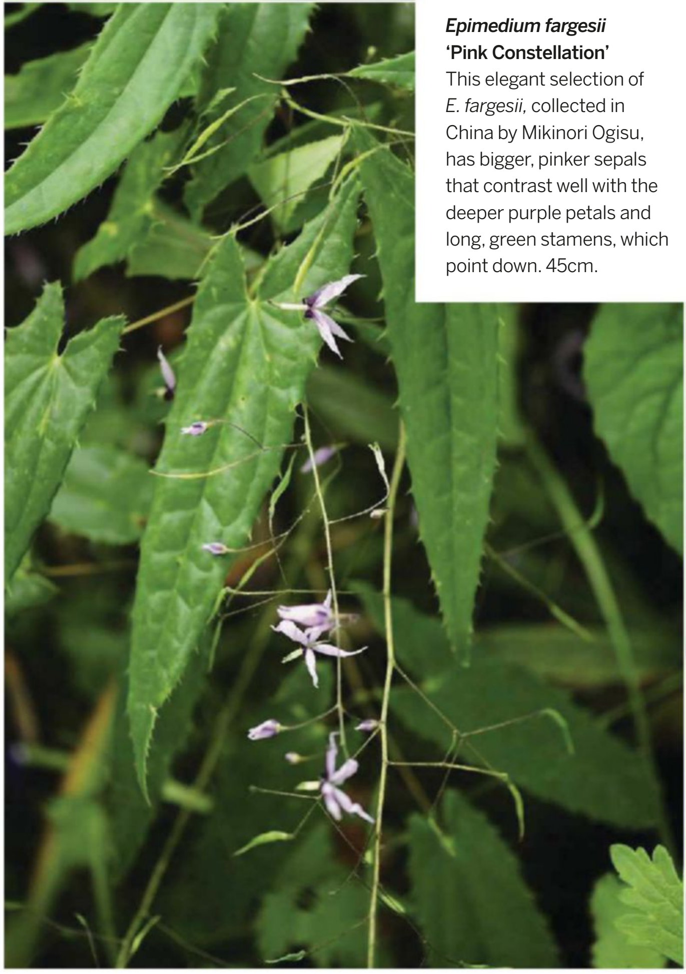
Epimedium stellulatum 'Wudang Star'
Discovered by Roy Lancaster in the Purple Cloud Temple in the Wudang Mountains, China, this delightfully simple white flower bears chrome yellow petals, stamens and anthers, over evergreen foliage. 20cm.



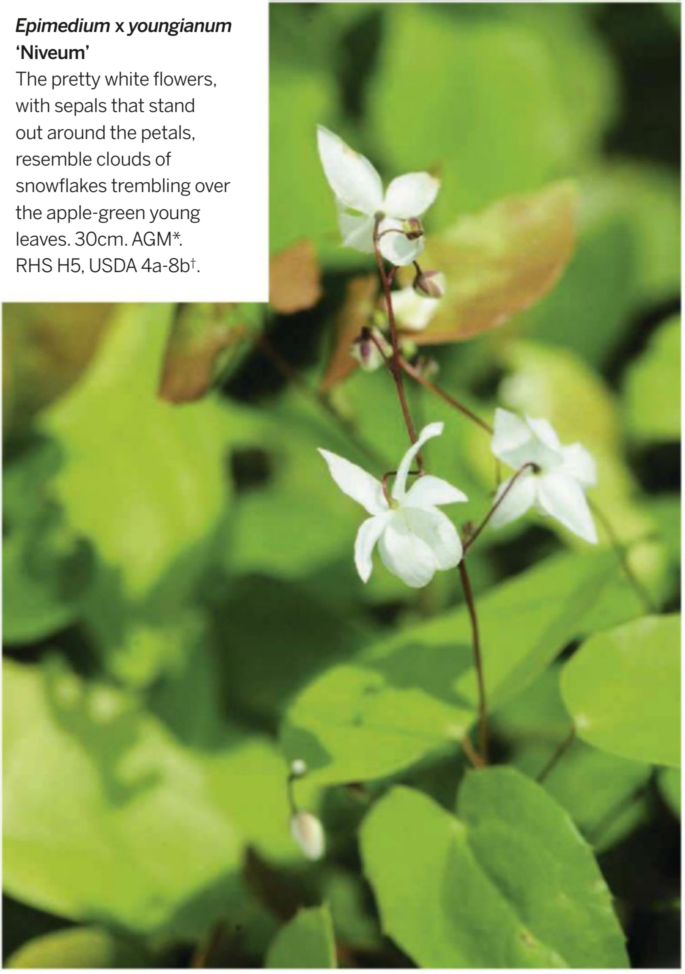
Epimedium* x *omeiense
'Myriad Years'
A dazzling American selection from a naturally occurring hybrid found on Mount Emei in China. Its large, bi-colour flowers have sepals of the palest lavender over deep purple petals. 30cm.



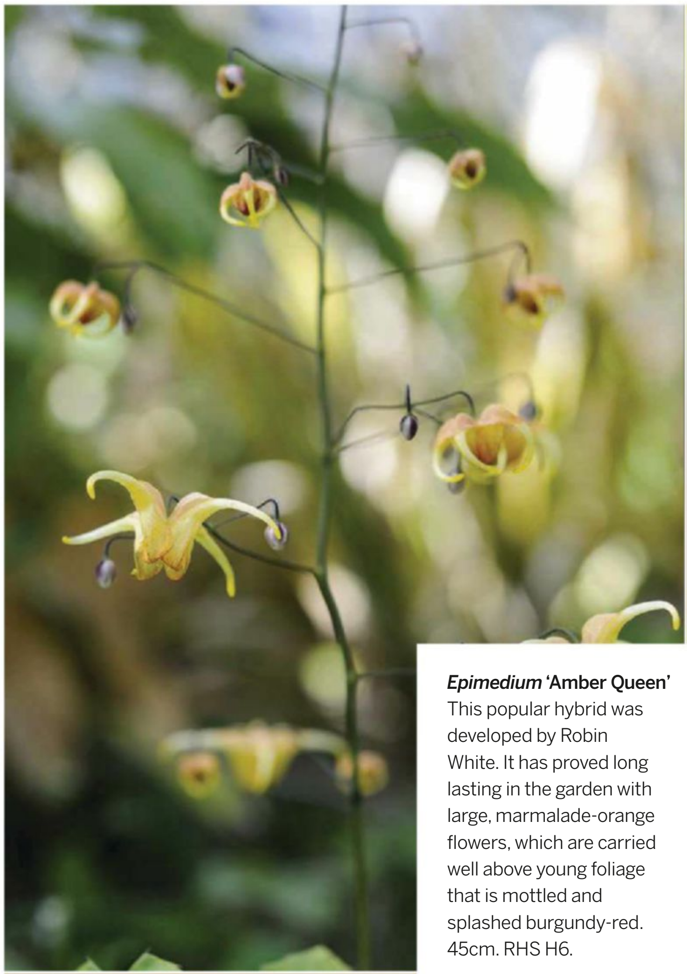
Epimedium* x *youngianum
'Roseum'
Pretty pink, spurless flowers on this small, acid-loving plant are followed by spring green, deciduous foliage. It mixes well with the white-flowered *E*. x *youngianum* 'Niveum'. 20cm.



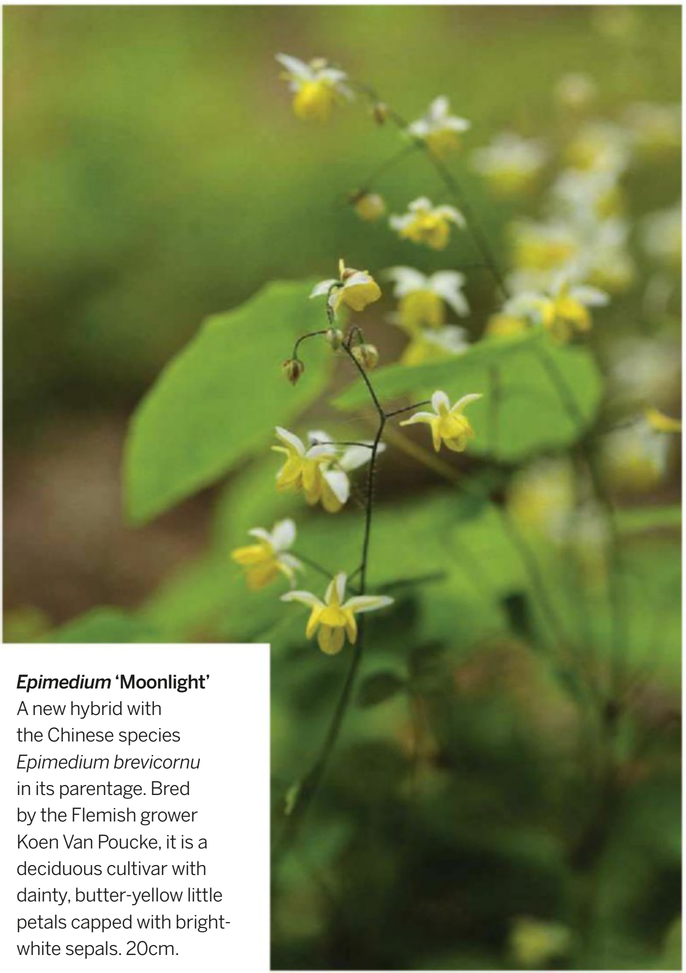
Epimedium fargesii
'Pink Constellation'
This elegant selection of *E. fargesii,* collected in China by Mikinori Ogisu, has bigger, pinker sepals that contrast well with the deeper purple petals and long, green stamens, which point down. 45cm.



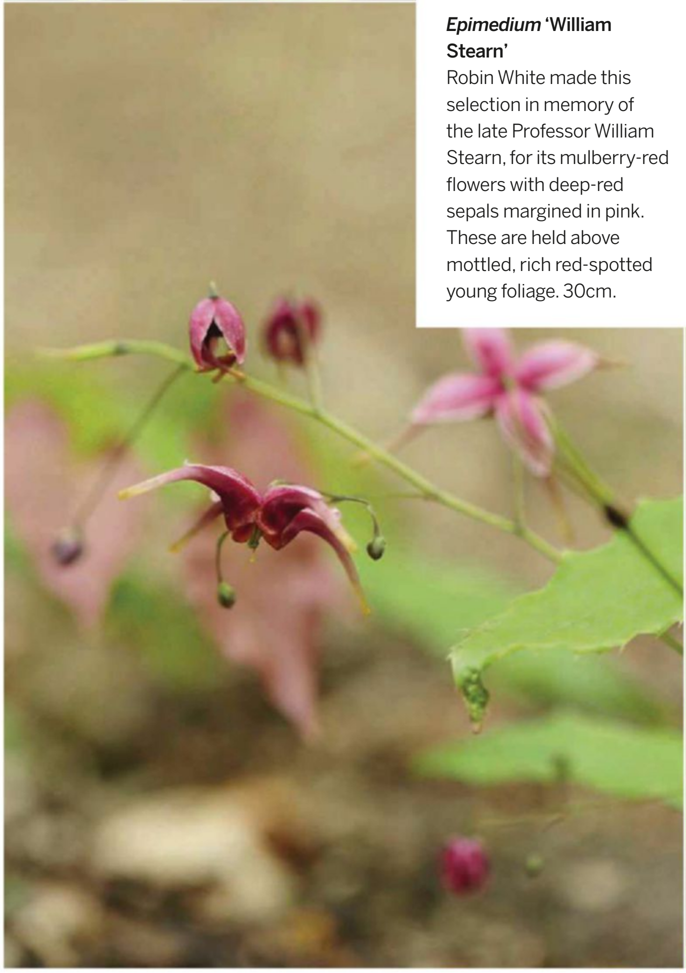
Epimedium* x *youngianum
'Niveum'
The pretty white flowers, with sepals that stand out around the petals, resemble clouds of snowflakes trembling over the apple-green young leaves. 30cm. AGM*. RHS H5, USDA 4a-8b†.



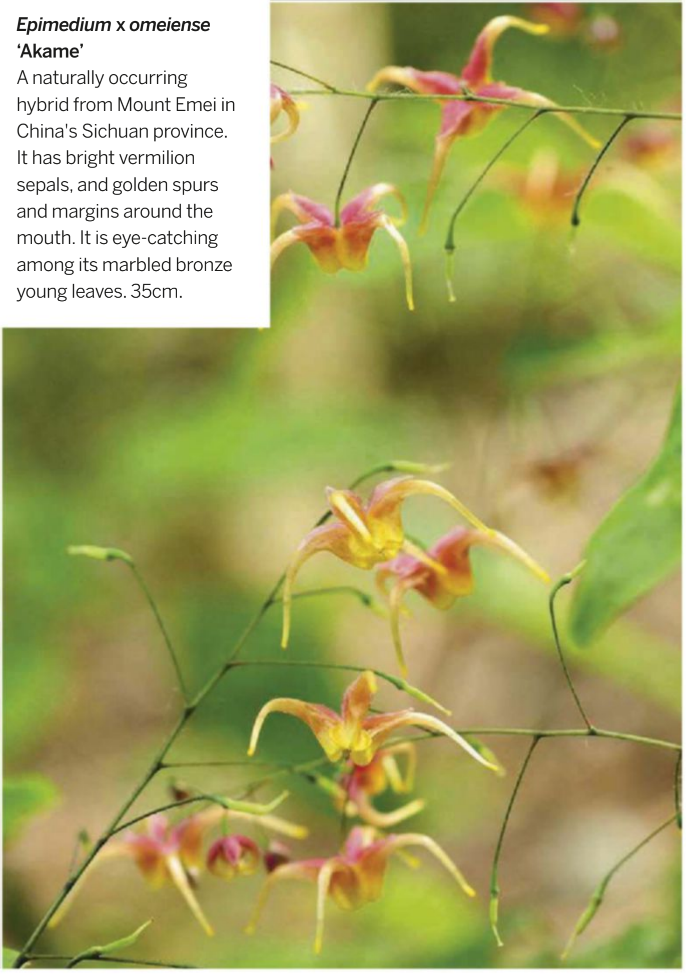
***Epimedium* 'Amber Queen'**
This popular hybrid was developed by Robin White. It has proved long lasting in the garden with large, marmalade-orange flowers, which are carried well above young foliage that is mottled and splashed burgundy-red. 45cm. RHS H6.



***Epimedium* 'Moonlight'**
A new hybrid with the Chinese species *Epimedium brevicornu* in its parentage. Bred by the Flemish grower Koen Van Poucke, it is a deciduous cultivar with dainty, butter-yellow little petals capped with bright-white sepals. 20cm.

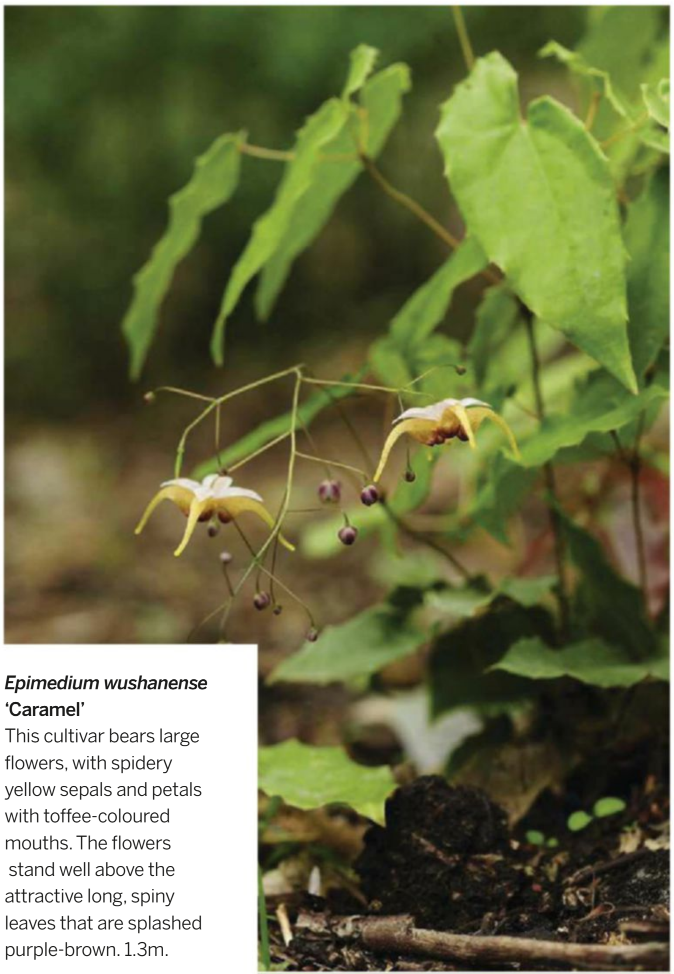


***Epimedium* 'William Stearn'**
Robin White made this selection in memory of the late Professor William Stearn, for its mulberry-red flowers with deep-red sepals margined in pink. These are held above mottled, rich red-spotted young foliage. 30cm.

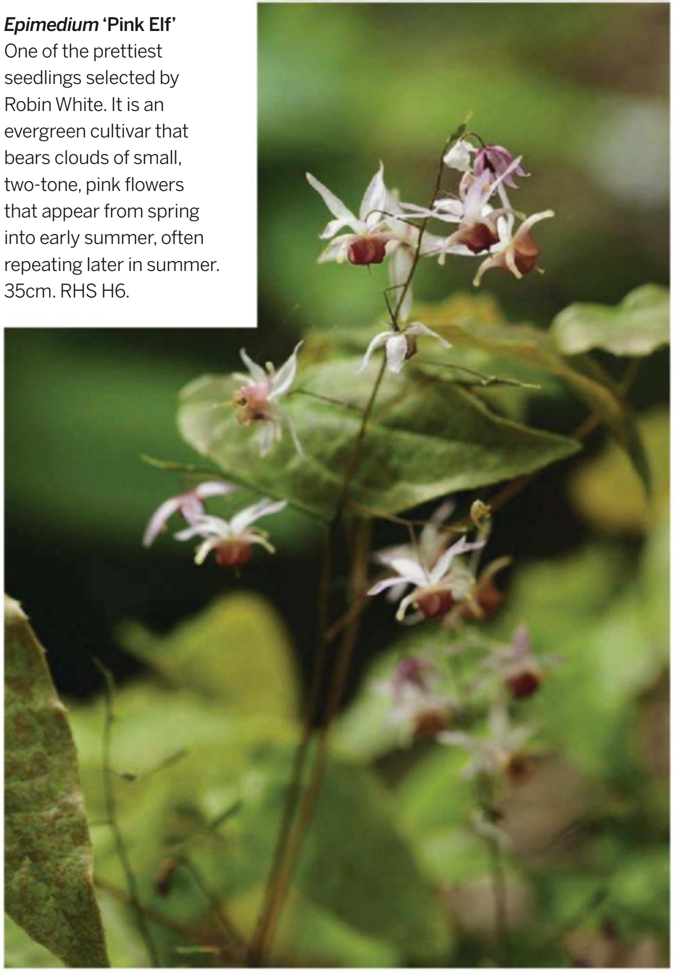


***Epimedium* x *omeiense* 'Akame'**
A naturally occurring hybrid from Mount Emei in China's Sichuan province. It has bright vermilion sepals, and golden spurs and margins around the mouth. It is eye-catching among its marbled bronze young leaves. 35cm.

EPIMEDIUM 'AMBER QUEEN': JASON INGRAM. MANY THANKS TO TUINGOED FOLTZ, TUINFLEUR AND JAN WILDE EEN TUIN, ALL IN THE NETHERLANDS, WHERE THE MAJORITY OF THESE IMAGES WERE TAKEN.



***Epimedium wushanense* 'Caramel'**
This cultivar bears large flowers, with spidery yellow sepals and petals with toffee-coloured mouths. The flowers stand well above the attractive long, spiny leaves that are splashed purple-brown. 1.3m.



***Epimedium* 'Pink Elf'**
One of the prettiest seedlings selected by Robin White. It is an evergreen cultivar that bears clouds of small, two-tone, pink flowers that appear from spring into early summer, often repeating later in summer. 35cm. RHS H6.

Cultivation

Epimediums are happiest in well-cultivated soils that hold some moisture but are well-drained. They appreciate a mulch of leaf mould in winter. All prefer light shade, preferably from overhead, but that provided later in summer by hydrangeas, roses and other deciduous shrubs is excellent. Most traditional types grow happily in dry soil under trees, but let them loose in the rest of a shady garden and you risk a bid for world domination.

The Japanese species – *E. grandiflorum*, *E. sempervirens*, *E.* x *youngianum* – prefer a rich, acid soil, and effectively fill in the gaps between rhododendrons and camellias. The new, evergreen Chinese species and their hybrids are happy in both acid and alkaline soils but prefer a rich, free-draining soil in shade, and steadily make bigger clumps without becoming invasive. The familiar, groundcovering forms should be trimmed over with shears in February before the flowering stalks extend. The over-wintered leaves of the Chinese species and hybrids can be cut back with more restraint in spring.

All epimediums are self-sterile, which means that any seed that forms is the result of hybridisation with its neighbours. It's important to cut off the seedpods to prevent seedlings arising in the crown of the mother plant. Lift and divide the mature plants after they have finished flowering during cool, damp weather. Replant them where they are to flower in ground that has been well prepared, preferably with leaf mould.

Epimediums are relatively disease-free, although they are prone to damage by vine weevils and at the first signs you should apply nematodes. Plants with thick, malformed or spotted leaves, or those with a yellow or cream mosaic pattern, may have tobacco rattle virus, which is transmitted through soil-living nematodes – although not those used to control vine weevils. If you spot any signs you'll need carefully to dig up the infected plant, and the plants around it, and dispose of all plants completely in a plastic bag. Don't replant epimediums in that space for at least five years. In country gardens it may also be worthwhile installing rabbit-proof fencing around the planted area as rabbits find epimedium leaves delicious.

Where to see and buy

• **Desirable Plants**
Pentamar, Crosspark,
Totnes, Devon TQ9 5BQ.
desirableplants.com
Mail order only.

• **Edrom Nurseries**
Coldingham, Eyemouth,
Berwickshire TD14 5TZ.
Tel 01890 771386,
edrom-nurseries.co.uk

• **Ghent University Botanical Garden**
Plantentuin Universiteit
Gent, KL Ledeganckstraat 35,
Ghent B-9000. Belgium.
plantentuin.ugent.be

• **Jan Wilde een Tuin**
Ontsluitingsweg 7, 9678 TE
Westerlee, the Netherlands.
Tel +31 (0)597 414462,
janwildeeentuin
Open by appointment only.

• **Koen Van Poucke**
Heistraat 106, 9100
Sint-Niklaas, Belgium.
Tel +32 (0)3 777 7642,
koenvanpoucke.be

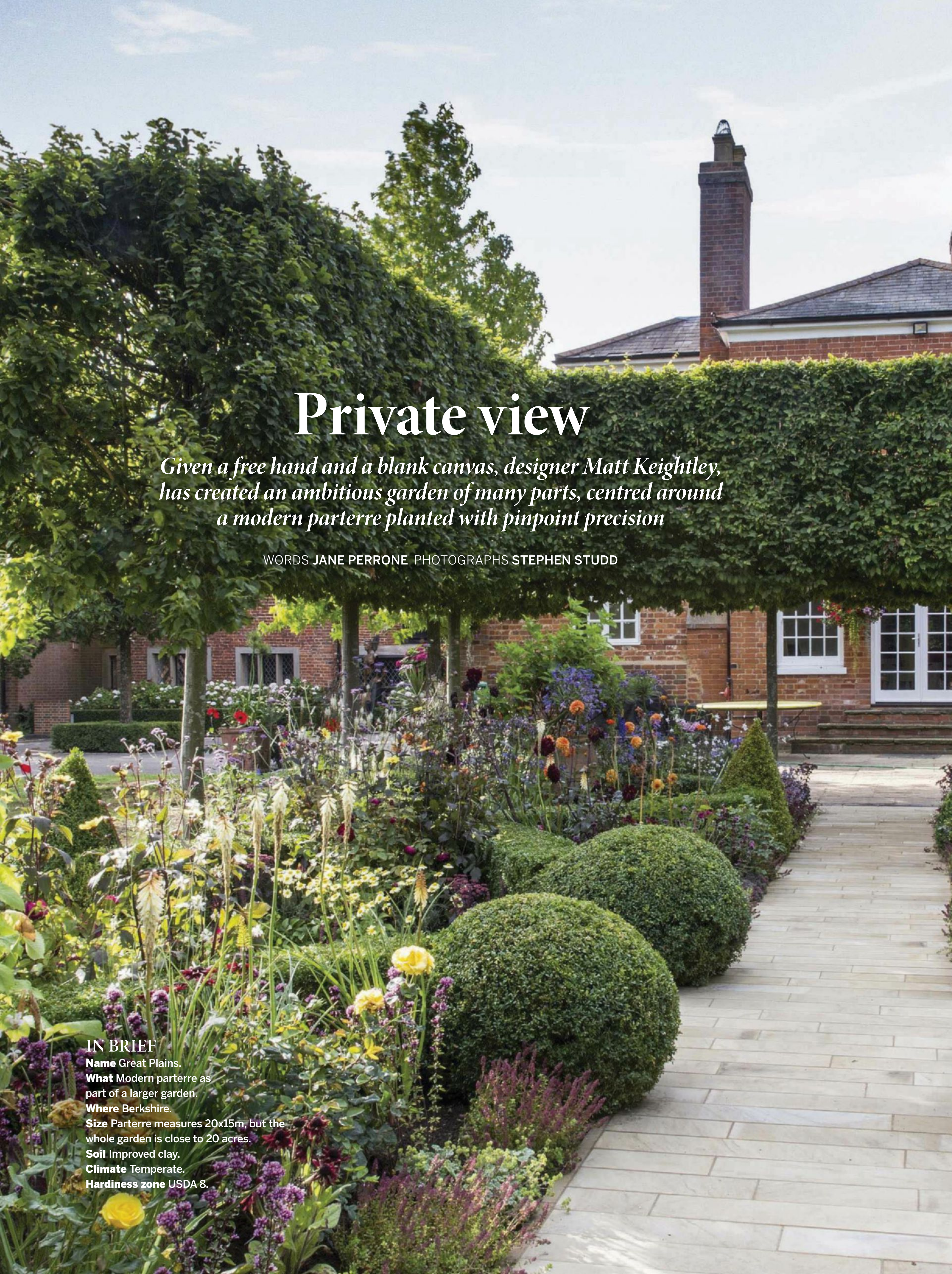
• **The Magnolias***
18 St John's Avenue,
Brentwood, Essex CM14 5DF.
Tel 01277 220019,
epimedium-collection.com
Private garden, open 28-29
April 2018, 10am-4pm.

• **Mill Cottage Plants**
Henley Mill, Wookey,
Somerset BA5 1AW.
Tel 01749 676966,
millcottageplants.co.uk
Open by appointment only.
Mail order available.

• **Tuinfleur**
Nieuweweg 34 9682,
RM Oostwold,
the Netherlands.
Tel +31 (0)597 551383,
tuinfleur.nl

• **Tuingoed Foltz**
Hereweg 346, 9651 AT
Meeden, the Netherlands.
Tel +31 (0)598 635000,
tuingoedfoltz.nl

* National Collection holder.



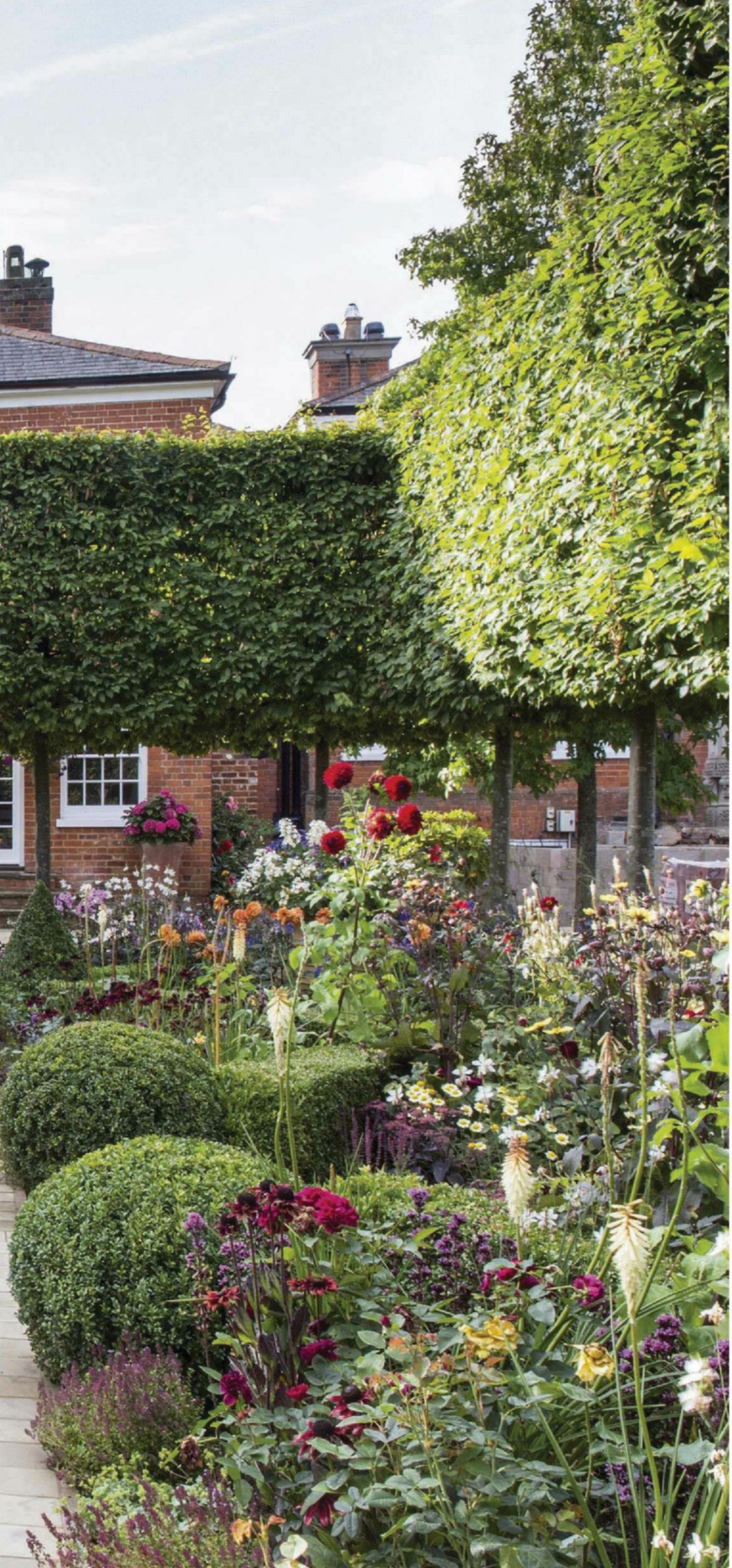
Private view

Given a free hand and a blank canvas, designer Matt Keightley, has created an ambitious garden of many parts, centred around a modern parterre planted with pinpoint precision

WORDS **JANE PERRONE** PHOTOGRAPHS **STEPHEN STUDD**

IN BRIEF

Name Great Plains.
What Modern parterre as part of a larger garden.
Where Berkshire.
Size Parterre measures 20x15m, but the whole garden is close to 20 acres.
Soil Improved clay.
Climate Temperate.
Hardiness zone USDA 8.



CHRIS JACKSON / STAFF / GETTY IMAGES

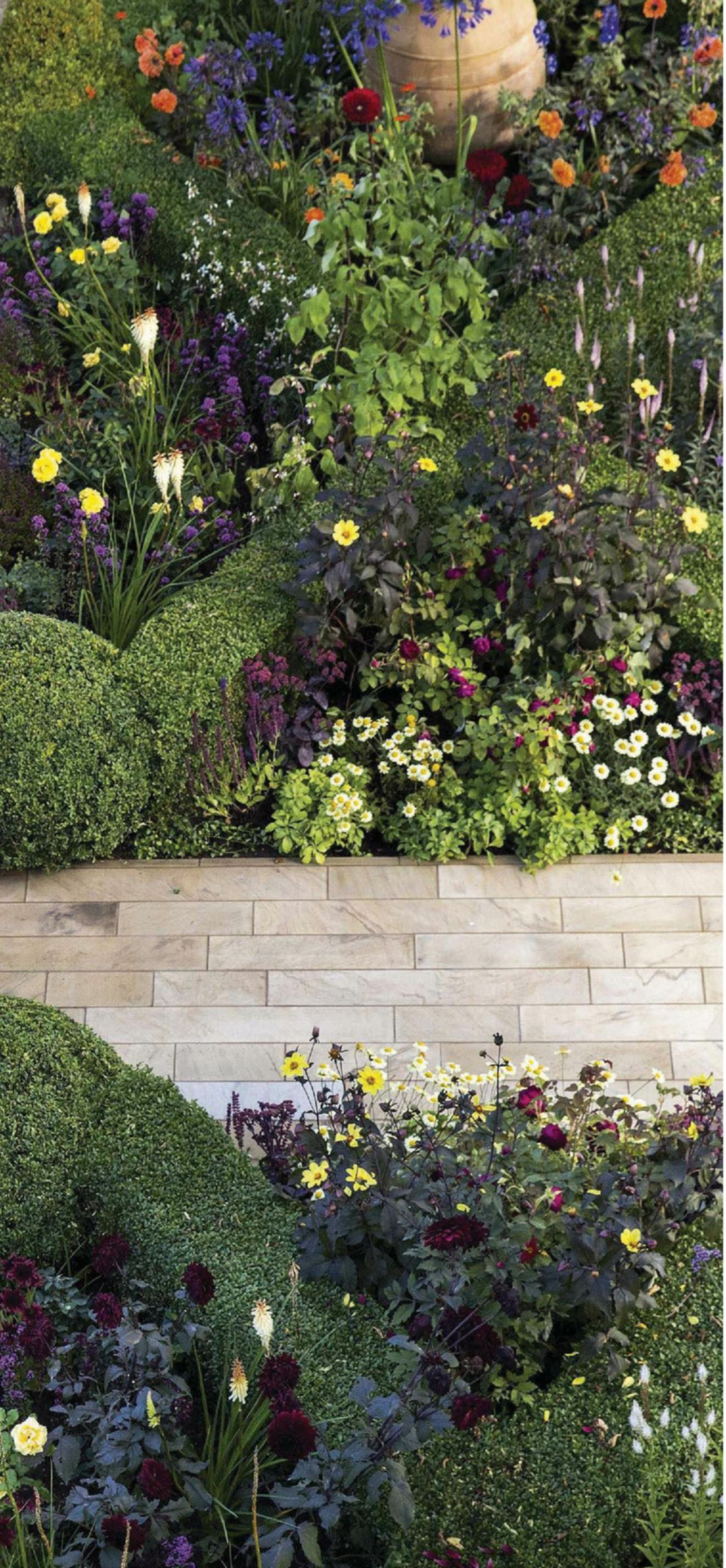
The chance to carve a 20-acre garden from scratch for a client with boundless ambition and resources is surely the stuff of dreams for any garden designer. For Matt Keightley this opportunity came in 2014, the same year his first Chelsea show garden won the People's Choice award, propelling him into the public eye in sudden and spectacular fashion.

For the next three years, Matt and his firm Rosebank Landscaping put everything into the project at Great Plains, creating one ambitious area after another, including a stumpery with 150 oak stumps and 70 tree ferns, a topiary garden, a sculpture walk and a 100m hot bed with about 15,000 plants. But one of the first areas to be developed was the parterre close to the house, a show garden-sized, greenery-framed, tapestry of colour and texture that looks simple, but required pinpoint precision to execute successfully.

The parterre presents an initial conundrum to the viewer. One of the founding principles of any parterre is that it can be viewed from an elevated position – usually the house – and yet key to Matt's design is a boundary of tall boxhead hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) at eye level. "Lots of people would look at the garden and say, well you've blocked the ▷

Above Designer Matt Keightley was asked to create a bold parterre close to the house.

Left Taller visitors may need to duck as they enter under a canopy of boxhead hornbeam, planted mature for instant impact. Each segment of the parterre is packed with a succession of colour, including in summer dahlias 'David Howard' and 'Karma Choc', and *Kniphofia* 'Toffee Nosed'.



THE IDEA WAS TO CREATE A FEELING OF LOOKING INTO A SNAPSHOT OF A PAINTING, WITH VIBRANT COLOURS; A TAPESTRY PLANTING, TO BREAK UP THE SCENE

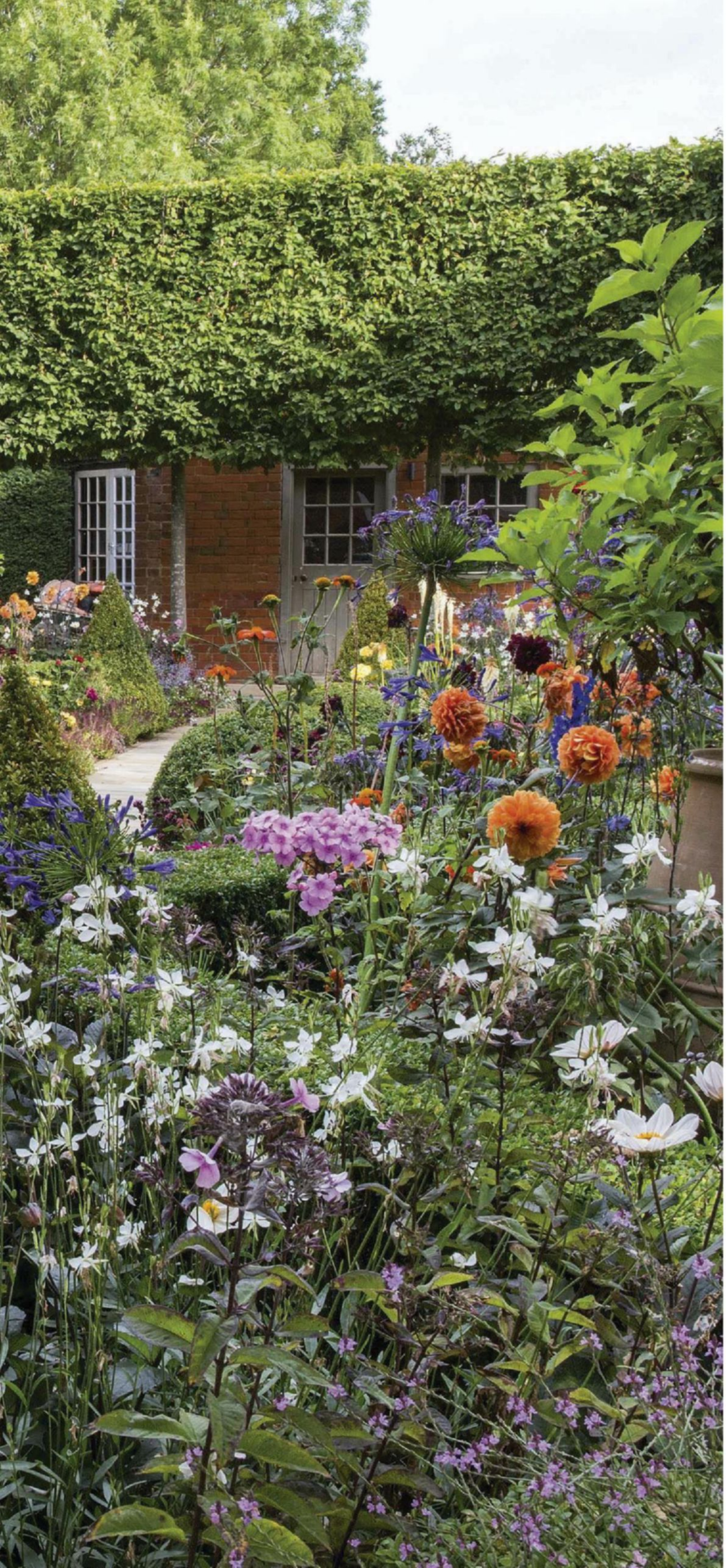
▷ house out, but that was carefully considered," he insists.

Here's how it works: the hornbeam canopy, which starts 1.8m from the ground and reaches 4m overall, is low enough to offer privacy when walking within, and yet the garden is fully visible when viewed from the owner's favourite vantage point indoors. "When you're in the parterre, you have this almost serene sense of privacy, because everyone is shut out at eyeline," Matt explains. The kitchen is where the owner spends most of his time, and from that spot he gets a perfect view of the garden below the hornbeams.

And the client – enthusiastic to see his garden in all its glory as soon as possible – got Matt involved before he'd signed the papers on the house. "It was all just paddocks and no real landscaping to note," says Matt. "A blank canvas." The soil – seams of clay and ballast – wasn't promising, but for a project on this scale, there were few limits when it came to improving planting conditions. "There wasn't any compromising, he just wanted it done properly," says Matt.

The client's only request for the parterre was a bold colour scheme, along with mature trees that would lend instant maturity. "The whole idea was to create a feeling like you are looking into a snapshot of a painting, with vibrant colours; a tapestry planting, to break up the scene." So box domes, cones and low hedges to reflect the vernacular of the traditional parterre, but the planting between disrupts that formality with daring and unexpected ▷

Left Paths, edged by a mix of low-growing plants, including clumps of thyme and *Alchemilla erythropoda*, quarter the garden. They're made of the same buff York stone as the terrace that wraps around the house, but cut into smaller plank shapes. "Changing the format gives it a very subtle breakline and gives you a different feeling when you enter the space," says Matt.



WHEN YOU'RE IN THE PARTERRE, YOU HAVE THIS ALMOST SERENE SENSE OF PRIVACY, BECAUSE EVERYONE IS SHUT OUT AT EYELINE

▷ colours and combinations, giving year-round interest but peaking in early summer.

The garden comes to a crescendo in the central beds, where terracotta urns are surrounded by deep-blue *Agapanthus* 'Tornado' and bright-orange *Dahlia* 'David Howard'. The planting softens as you move through towards the edges of the space, as the garden is designed for meandering through rather than sitting in; there are no seating or focal points at the end of the paths.

The planting follows a rhythm of vibrant red and purple tones from plants such as *Rosa* Munstead Wood (='Ausbernard') and *Cosmos atrosanguineus* Chocamocha (='Thomocha'), tempered by yellows of *Leucanthemum* x *superbum* 'Banana Cream', as well as the blue of *Agastache* 'Blue Boa'. Low-growing textural foliage comes in the form of mixed thyme, *Stipa tenuissima* and *Alchemilla erythropoda*, while *Pachysandra terminalis* underplants the larger perennials along the fringe to soften the paving's edge.

The result is a delightful jewel box of a garden, where each compartment can be treasured individually or en masse – either from within the privacy of the hornbeam enclosure or from the owner's special spot in the kitchen. Lucky him. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

🎙 Subscribe to the *Gardens Illustrated* podcast at **gardensillustrated.com** to hear Matt discuss his feature garden for Chelsea 2018, and find out more about his work at **rosebanklandscaping.co.uk**

Left Matt uses daring colour combinations. In the foreground he has teamed the white of airy *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Whirling Butterflies' and *Dahlia* 'Twyning's After Eight' with the scented pink *Phlox paniculata* 'Franz Schubert', but has placed these pale colours alongside the blue of *Agapanthus* 'Tornado' and orange pompoms of *Dahlia* 'David Howard'.

HORTICULTURAL WHO'S WHO

CLEVE WEST

The down-to-earth and modest designer on the benefits of working alone, the importance of gardening with a light environmental touch, and why he's happiest outside working on his allotment

WORDS **ANNIE GATTI** PORTRAIT **CHARLIE HOPKINSON**

Cleve West, winner of six gold medals and two Best in Show gardens at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, is one of the UK's most admired and influential garden designers so I was expecting his studio to be bristling with desks, work schedules and ringing phones. Instead Cleve leads me down to a basement room with a single drawing board, computer screen and plan chest. The only accessories are pieces of flint on the windowsill, and a framed embroidered rose, a gold medal award for one of his early RHS Hampton Court Show gardens.

This is how this self-deprecating, down-to-earth designer has always liked to work. "I don't want the responsibility of an office full of people," he explains. "Also I'm probably a bit of a control freak." What he really means is that he's a perfectionist, and that he needs to be involved in every step of the design process. At his stage in his career – he has been making private gardens since 1990 – he can, by and large, choose his commissions. "I try to work with clients who have the same values as me, who are interested in the environment and in the process of making a garden rather than having it as a showpiece." But one of the limitations of running a solo studio is that he doesn't have the resources to enter public competitions and so much of his work remains unseen.

> I TRY TO WORK WITH CLIENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE ENVIRONMENT AND WANT A GARDEN RATHER THAN A SHOWPIECE

Cleve studied art and PE in London with a view to becoming a teacher, which he tried but didn't have the patience for. A coach at his athletics club – who has since become a lifelong friend – was a professional landscaper and taught him about hard landscaping. He'd also been helping an aunt to keep on top of her large garden, so eventually the young Cleve drifted into garden maintenance, and found that he really enjoyed working outdoors – he still does, and chafes at being in his office when he can glimpse a blue sky through the window.

The first show gardens he made, with sculptor Johnny Woodford, used architectural, often exotic plants and whacky pieces of art. "It was an exciting time: we were exploring, expressing ourselves. It was a bit like the punk era of gardening." It was Chelsea that brought Cleve's designs to a wider public, and where he honed his mastery of exquisite, relaxed planting, beautifully detailed hard landscaping and bold sculptural elements. The appeal for Cleve was the freedom it gave him to experiment. "As a designer, Chelsea is the only chance I get to do something without having to compromise. On a site you're either governed by the nature of the site, the client's taste or the budget." For several years his Chelsea gardens featured the massive concrete sculptures of Serge Bottagisio and Agnès Decoux. In 2012 he designed his own stone sculpture as a focal point of the topiary-rich garden – gratifyingly this was the Chelsea garden that afterwards generated most enquiries. His most recent Chelsea, infused with his teenage memories of the Exmoor landscape where he lived for a year, was one of his favourites. "That was a fun, heartfelt garden to do, and it was nice to be able to finish with that." No more Cleve West appearances on Main Avenue then?

Possibly his finale will be a multi-dimensional collaborative garden with four other designers for 2019 but increasingly he is bothered by the waste of both materials and plants in making a show garden. As he approaches his 60th year, Cleve is immersed in ethical considerations. There are the environmental repercussions of designing a garden to think about – "You go in with diggers and dumpers and excavators and you're ripping out ecosystems and biodiversity that's taken a long time to establish" – and then there's the matter of what contribution garden designers should be making to the world. "Being a designer is OK for earning a living but what are you going to do for the environment, what legacy will you leave behind?" he asks. It's a rhetorical question, but one to which he urgently wants to find a satisfactory answer.

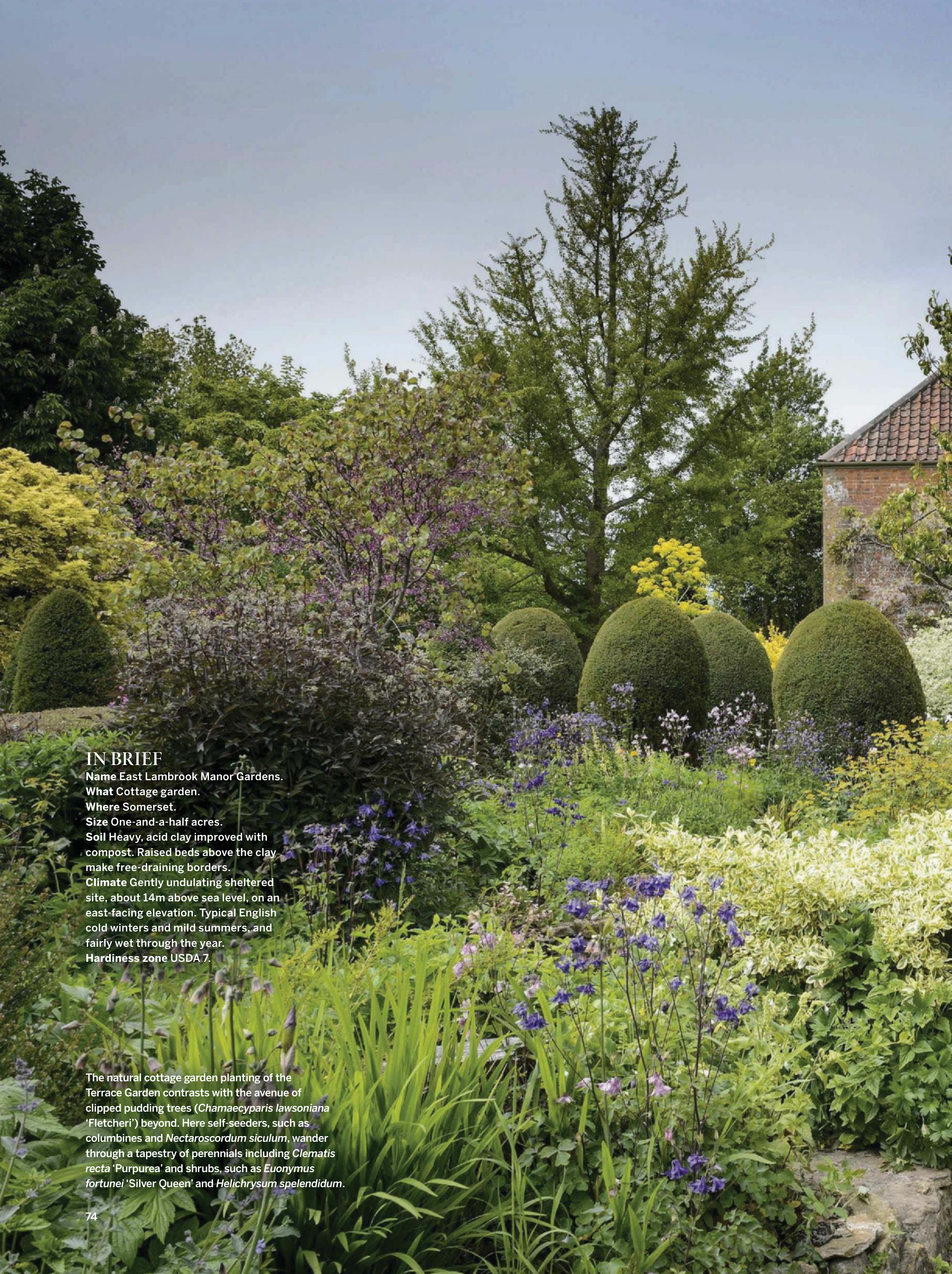
The commission to design the first Horatio's Garden – accessible gardens in NHS spinal injury centres – for Salisbury District Hospital powerfully showed him the therapeutic role of good garden design. "When I started I didn't fully appreciate what Horatio's Garden was going to bring to people in terms of hope and sustenance and realigning their lives to cope with life-changing injuries."

Most of Cleve's practical gardening is done on his allotment, which he shares with his partner Christine, and chronicled in his 2011 book *Our Plot*. Here, since he became vegan two years ago, he has been experimenting with growing fruit and veg without using any animal products. Like many converts, he passionately feels it's his job to persuade the rest of us to remove animal products from our diet, partly for environmental reasons, partly for moral ones. The intensity of his arguments suggests that this is a cause he will never desert. Meanwhile he continues to make gardens that, he hopes, capture an essence of sanctuary. "I'm trying to create a place where you can relax and where you can contemplate," he says. "For me, that's what gardens are all about." □

USEFUL INFORMATION

Cleve West Landscape Design, Navigator House, 60 High Street, Hampton Wick, Surrey KT1 4DB. Tel 020 8977 3522, clevewest.com

NEXT MONTH Plantsman John Hillier.



IN BRIEF

Name East Lambrook Manor Gardens.
What Cottage garden.
Where Somerset.
Size One-and-a-half acres.
Soil Heavy, acid clay improved with compost. Raised beds above the clay make free-draining borders.
Climate Gently undulating sheltered site, about 14m above sea level, on an east-facing elevation. Typical English cold winters and mild summers, and fairly wet through the year.
Hardiness zone USDA 7.

The natural cottage garden planting of the Terrace Garden contrasts with the avenue of clipped pudding trees (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Fletcheri') beyond. Here self-seeders, such as columbines and *Nectaroscordum siculum*, wander through a tapestry of perennials including *Clematis recta* 'Purpurea' and shrubs, such as *Euonymus fortunei* 'Silver Queen' and *Helichrysum splendidum*.

THE GARDENER'S GARDEN

Since Margery Fish first made a garden at East Lambrook in Somerset it has firmly remained in the cottage garden style

WORDS **MATTHEW REESE** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**

THE GARDEN AT EAST LAMBROOK IS OVERFLOWING WITH PLANTS; THEY OCCUPY EVERY NICHE, ON THE WALLS AND IN THE CRACKS OF PAVING

Nestling on the edge of a small hamlet in Somerset is the 15th-century East Lambrook Manor, made famous by the prominent gardener Margery Fish. She gardened at East Lambrook from 1938-69 and championed the cottage garden style through her many articles and books. Among her works is the well-known *We Made a Garden* – her account of building the garden from scratch alongside her husband, Walter, and the struggles they encountered.

Mrs Fish created the flower garden using a similar style (though on a smaller scale) to that found at Hidcote, Sissinghurst and Gravetye Manor. She wished it to be, in her words, 'as modest and unpretentious as the house, a cottage garden, in fact, with crooked paths and unexpected corners'. The manor house is unassuming, yet charming, and built from the local sandstone, hamstone, as are the malthouse and attached cowshed at the centre of the garden. Hamstone is quarried from the nearby Ham Hill. It is also used throughout the garden in the walls, while blue lias (another local stone) is used for paving the paths, and as flooring in the house. Such continuity creates a bond between house and garden.

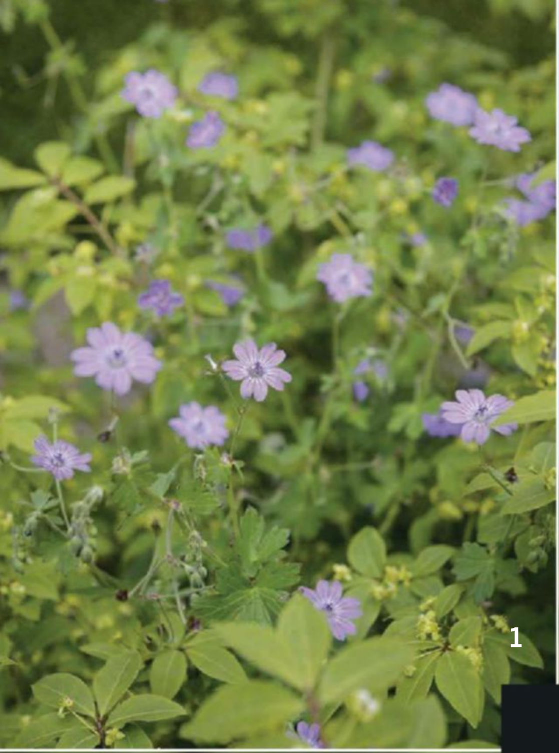
The rectangular site is gently undulating, with the manor house anchored in the southeast corner. The house leads to the Terrace Garden, comprising a series of raised hamstone island beds and interlinking paths that meander up a slope. It is said that Mrs Fish originally marked out the terrace pattern in fresh snow. Intersecting the terrace is a wider path flanked with pudding trees (tightly clipped *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* 'Fletcheri'), which leads to themed gardens at the top of the slope, including the Silver Garden, White Garden and Top Lawn. The layout is restrained and humble, with the garden flowing around the malthouse and divided into areas known as The Strip, The Ditch and the Wooded Helleborus Garden.

Margery Fish is renowned for her informal, naturalistic, cottage garden style of planting. The garden at East Lambrook is overflowing with plants; they occupy every niche, on the walls and in the cracks of paving. Self-sowers are encouraged, and carefully chosen wildflowers are given garden room. The garden achieves year-round height and structure through carefully positioned woody plants. These bones of the garden lend substance, particularly during winter and early spring when the bulk of the planting is dormant. On the terrace, centre stage with its distorted foliage, is evergreen *Prunus laurocerasus* 'Camelliifolia' – a plant so uncommon even the most proficient plantaholic might struggle to identify it. *Euonymus fortunei* 'Silver Queen', with attractive, variegated foliage, provides contrast to the softer herbaceous perennials. The pudding trees are one of the few formal features in the garden, but are also good counterpoints to the mead-like mixture of flowers in the borders. Larger trees stationed around the perimeter as well as in the lawns help enclose the garden, shielding it from surrounding properties.

Self-sowers are prevalent throughout the garden and are a key feature of the naturalistic atmosphere as they break up the man-made planting with their wandering habits. *Nectaroscordum siculum*, aquilegia hybrids and *Gladiolus communis* subsp. *byzantinus* are among these summer volunteers. Snowdrops and scilla perform similar roles in spring by scattering themselves here and there, often in between perennials that will supersede them ▷

Facing page top In the Wooded Helleborus Garden, Welsh poppies, columbines, campions and cow parsley wend their way through geraniums, astrantias and hostas, with shrubs and trees providing height and structure. "We don't slavishly follow [Mrs Fish's] plans," says owner Mike Werkmeister, "but we do use some of her old favourites."

Bottom In the Terrace Garden the golden foliage of *Euonymus japonicus* 'Aureus' and *Philadelphus coronarius* 'Aureus' vies with *Cornus alba* 'Variegata', both contrasting with the dark-purple *Corylus avellana* 'Fuscorubra'. The strident orange *Geum* 'Prinses Juliana' is a transient focal point in the lush herbaceous borders.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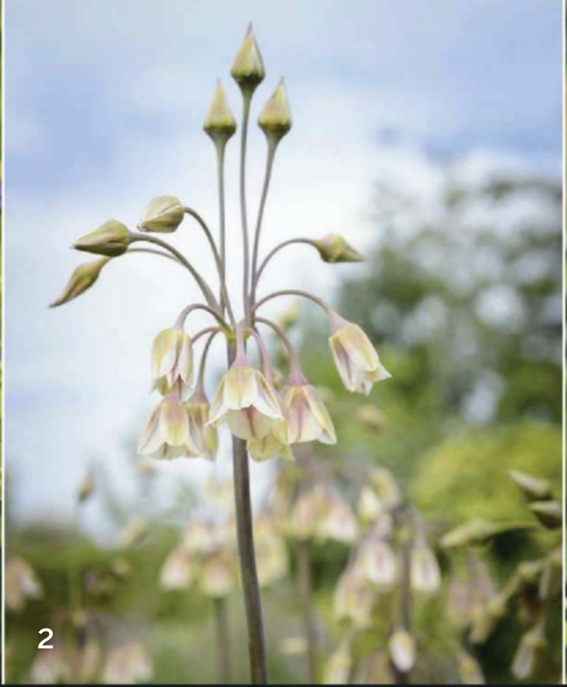
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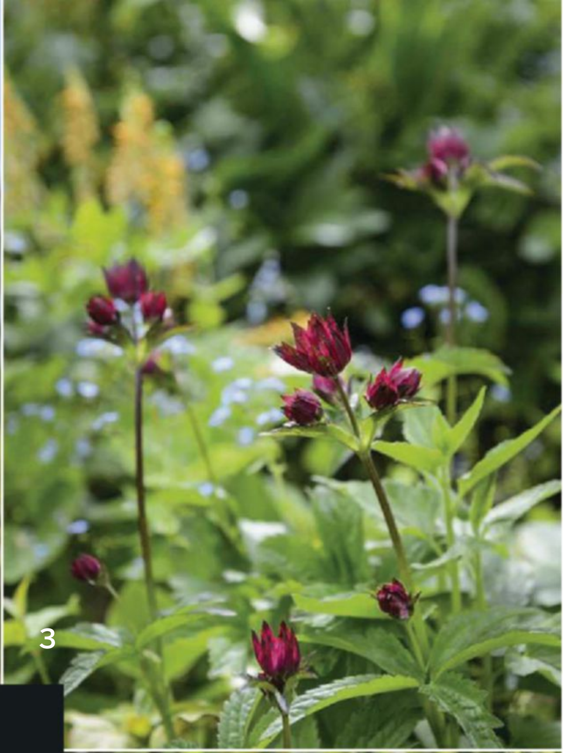
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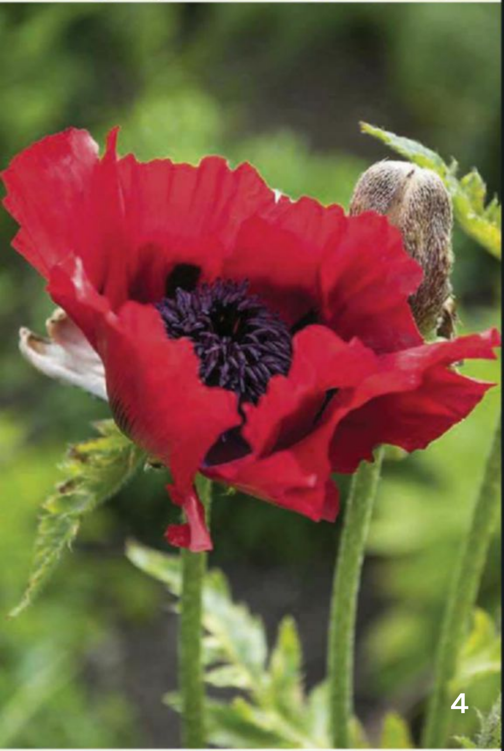
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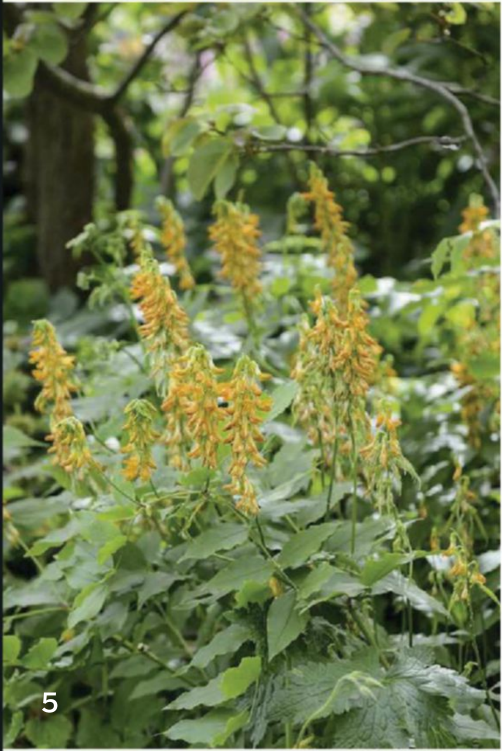
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NINE EAST LAMBROOK PLANTS

1 *Geranium pyrenaicum*
A self-seeder that will gradually travel through the garden, casting diffuse sprays of small, pale-mauve flowers. Thrives best in light soil and sun. 40-50cm. RHS H6†.

2 *Nectaroscordum siculum*
One of Mrs Fish's favourite plants, described as growing 'above the eye so that the maroon makings inside the cream and green bells can be enjoyed'. 1.3m. RHS H5.

3 *Astrantia major* Gill Richardson Group
A good dark form. According to Mrs Fish, 'Astrantias are good mixers and they will fit in anywhere and go with everything'. 60cm. RHS H7.

4 *Papaver orientale* (Goliath Group) 'Beauty of Livermere'
A show-stopper, with large goblet flowers of blood red, produced in June. Does best on rich soils. 1m. RHS H7.

5 *Lathyrus aureus*
A non-climbing pea making loose mounds of good, green foliage and covered in spikes of modest, ochre pea flowers. 60cm. RHS H6.

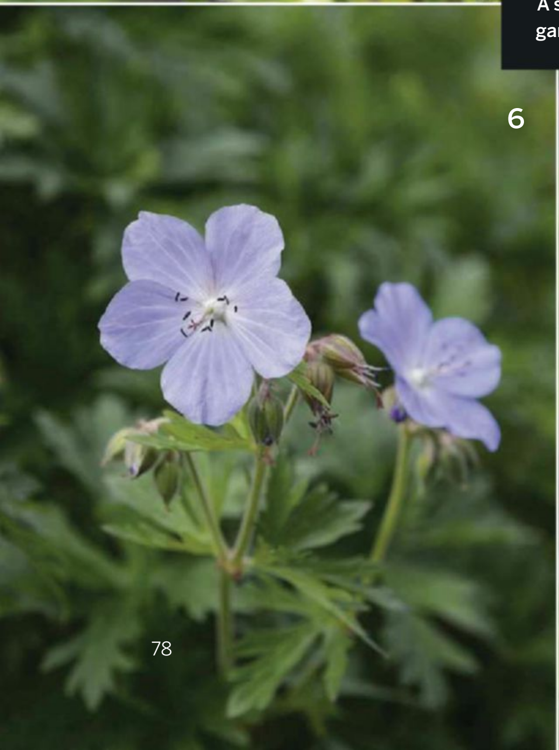
6 *Geranium pratense*
A self-sowing, variable perennial that readily finds its way through borders, paths and dry stone walls. 60cm. RHS H7, USDA 4a-7b.

7 *Phuopsis stylosa*
A mat-forming perennial, with carpets of vivid green, bedstraw-like foliage topped with tight clusters of small, bright flowers. 15cm. RHS H5.

8 *Geranium versicolor*
This loose, mound-forming geranium has white flowers with reticulate pink venation. Flowers late spring into early summer. 50cm. RHS H6.

9 *Gladiolus communis* subsp. *byzantinus*
A signature plant at East Lambrook, where it self-sows throughout the garden. Intense magenta flowers. 50cm. RHS H5, USDA 7a-10b. AGM*.

6



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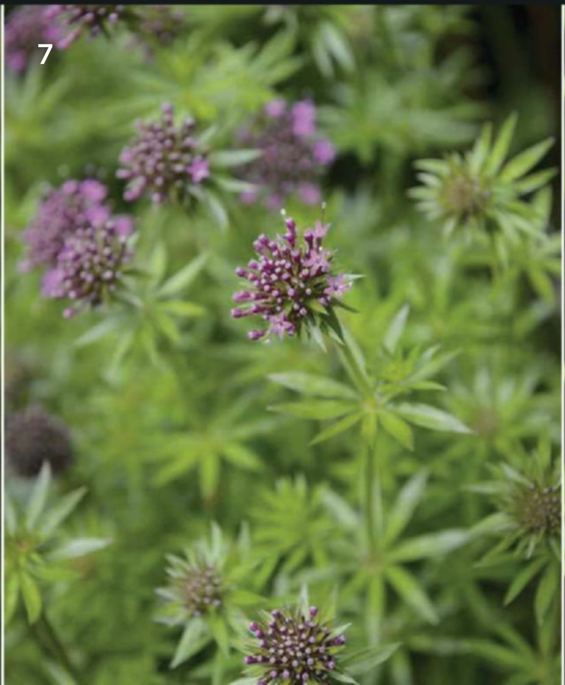

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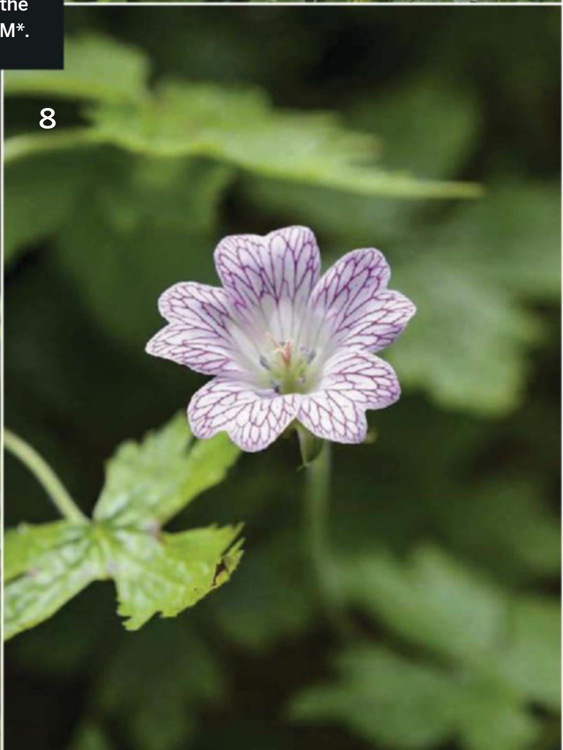


*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.

A TIMELESS GARDEN FOR EVERYONE

The gardens of East Lambrook Manor remain as relevant to gardeners today as when they were first designed by Margery Fish in 1938. The cottage garden style is naturalistic, the plants are laid out organically and the proportions are relatively small. Plants are allowed to wander, running or seeding throughout the garden. Modern gardens can be over-designed and do not always allow for easy integration of new plants. Although they have a certain appeal, they are often not very personable, and can be far removed from a typical garden. East Lambrook has the type of planting that most people can achieve in their own garden, where new plants can easily be added, or old plants removed without too much disruption. Margery Fish created a gardener's garden full of hidden gems, where common, good garden plants are combined with the rare and unusual. It is a place to visit for snowdrops in winter, and bulbs and hellebores in spring. In summer it is brimming with perennials, annuals, biennials and shrubs, all combined with a sense of timeless style. This is a garden with broad appeal. It has something for everyone, from the interested home gardener or the professional in search of new combinations, to the plant collector seeking the rare and desirable or the artist who just wants to be in a dream of a garden.

▷ later in the year. Much like the blue lias and hamstone, self-seeding plants, such as the Welsh poppy and native red campion, serve to link different areas of the garden together.

Mrs Fish was very skilled not only at assembling displays, but also at creating combinations to occupy different seasons. Many areas of the garden mimic the ecology of a woodland: great swathes of spring bulbs in The Ditch are followed by a summer canopy of flowering herbaceous perennials. Such succession gardening creates a long period of interest. The show begins in spring with a display of snowdrops and continues unabated into autumn.

Mrs Fish was a novice who came to gardening in her forties. It's a remarkable achievement that she was able to create such a significant, settled garden from scratch in the 30 years she spent at East Lambrook, and it continues to thrive and exhibit her style even today. During this chapter of her life, she became an avid plantswoman and acquired significant collections of geraniums and snowdrops, some of which bear her name. Her relaxed style of gardening catered for her love of collecting plants, and she could add new discoveries to the borders without disrupting the 'grand scheme' of an overly formal design. She introduced many new cultivars discovered as seedlings in the garden; the long list includes *Polemonium* 'Lambrook Mauve', *Artemisia absinthium* 'Lambrook Silver' and *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii* 'Lambrook Gold'.

After Mrs Fish died in 1969, the garden remained in the family for nearly 20 years. It has since been through various owners, all of whom have maintained East Lambrook in the cottage garden style. This continuity is largely thanks to head gardener Mark Stainer, who has worked in the garden for more than 40 years, and whose passion and love for the place is obvious.

Mike and Gail Werkmeister now own East Lambrook Manor, and together with Mark aim to ensure the legacy of this iconic garden. There is always tension between nostalgia and progress, but they seem to have found the right balance. On the subject of changes, Mike says that the Wooded Helleborus Garden, recently revitalised by Mark, is now one of his favourite areas. "Sometimes changes are forced upon the garden," he continues, lamenting a lovely specimen of *Rhus potaninii* felled in a storm, and honey fungus has also taken its fair share of victims. But these losses are an opportunity for the Werkmeisters to put their own stamp on the garden, and undoubtedly they will continue the legacy that began 80 years ago with Margery Fish. ◻

USEFUL INFORMATION

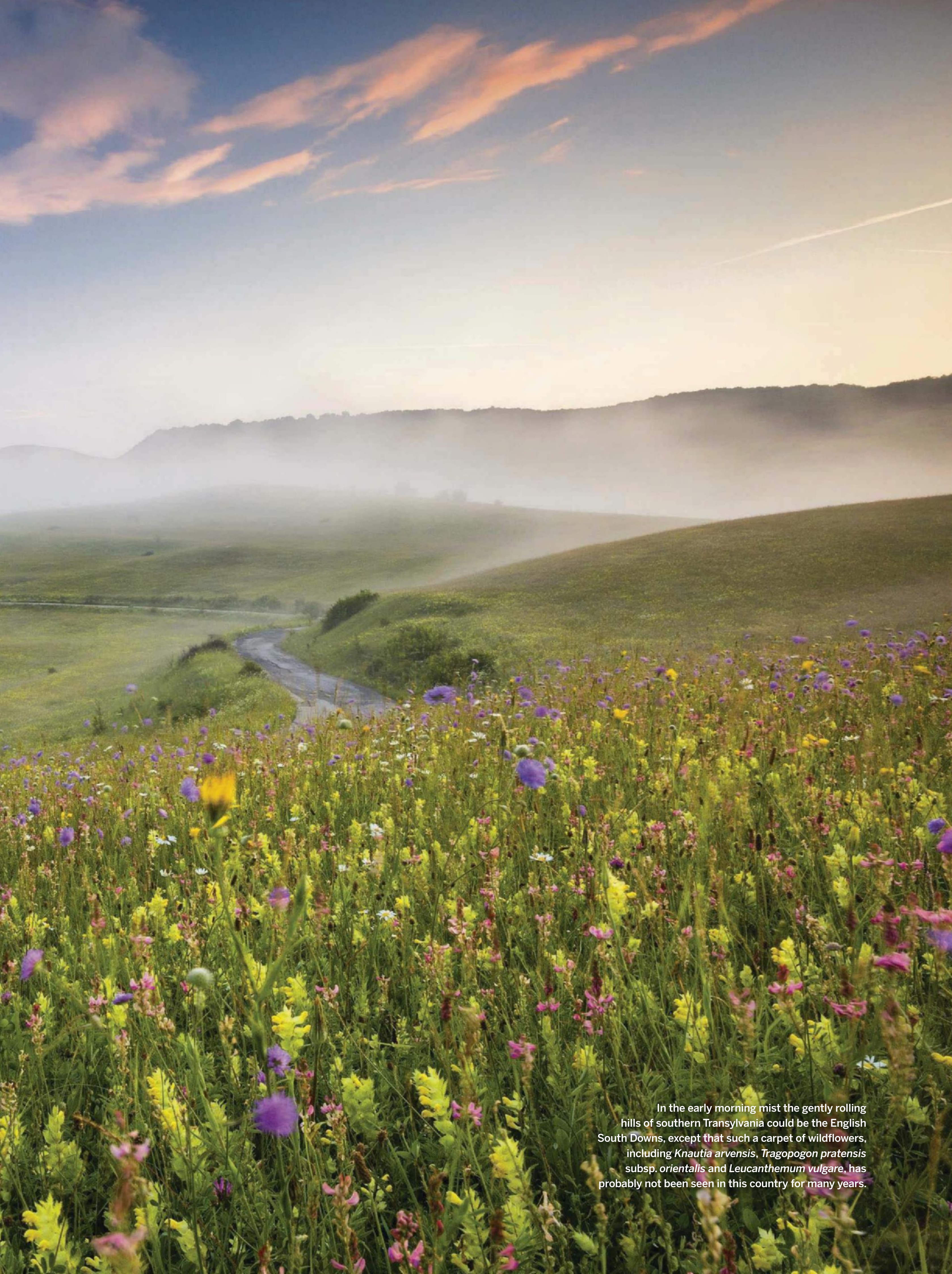
Address East Lambrook Manor Gardens, Silver Street, East Lambrook, Somerset TA13 5HH.
Tel 01460 240328. **Website** eastlambrook.com
Open 1 February – 31 October, Tuesday – Saturday (plus Sundays May – July and Bank Holiday Mondays), 10am-5pm. Open for the National Garden Scheme on 13 May and 2 June. Admission £6.

Opposite top The pudding trees were originally planted by Mrs Fish to make an avenue that bisects the Terrace Garden. This is the second planting: "The first lot grew too large," says head gardener Mark. Winding paved paths and informal mixtures of aquilegias, *Phuopsis stylosa* and Welsh poppies are typical of the planting.
Bottom Narrow paths create an intimate feel in the garden, and the atmosphere and style is still much the same as it was when Mrs Fish laid out the garden. The purple *Berberis* towards the middle of the border, flanked on the left by *Elaeagnus pungens* 'Dicksonii' and on the right by *Cercis siliquastrum*, is a relic of Mrs Fish's planting.

MEADOWLANDS

Some of our most familiar plants have their provenance in the grasslands of southern Transylvania

WORDS **DR JOHN AKEROYD** PHOTOGRAPHS **RICHARD BLOOM**



In the early morning mist the gently rolling hills of southern Transylvania could be the English South Downs, except that such a carpet of wildflowers, including *Knautia arvensis*, *Tragopogon pratensis* subsp. *orientalis* and *Leucanthemum vulgare*, has probably not been seen in this country for many years.

For some time now, foreign visitors have been flocking to southern Transylvania in Romania, largely drawn by the remarkable architecture of its medieval towns and villages. Today, however, more visitors are coming to its hills to see the wildflowers. From late spring to midsummer the green farmland vistas of this region of rolling marl hills magically transforms into a grassland garden of colour, scent and humming insects. Everywhere, a bright tapestry of wildflowers enfolds and transfigures roadside verges and banks, hay meadows, sheep and cattle pastures, scrubby hillsides and woodland margins. It is a spectacle to lift the heart.

The grassland flora is a mix of western and central European, steppic and Mediterranean plants, together with some mountain plants. The region's central European climate means hot summers and cold winters, and the plants that thrive here are both drought-tolerant and resistant to low temperatures. This dry or semi-dry meadow-steppe is an internationally important vegetation that has retreated throughout central Europe, at its best in patches of true steppic grassland on south-facing slopes and steep marl hummocks that are a feature of the area known as the Saxon Villages. Here, from early May, among sparse tussocky fescues and feather-grasses appear special wildflowers, several on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Romania's rarest plants, including *Crambe tatarica*, *Dictamnus albus*, *Echium maculatum*, milk-vetches, mulleins, yellow, blue and pink flaxes and, most spectacular of all, the tall, bowed spikes of violet-blue *Salvia nutans*, which look like giant, branched bluebells, are visible even from a distance. By contrast, in the Carpathian foothills, as well as in a few lowland sites that have escaped 20th-century drainage, the flora of damper meadows on north-facing slopes and along valley bottoms includes orchids, globe-flower, bistort, marsh marigold, monkshood and gladioli.

But these fields of wildflowers are no mere ornament. In this part of the world grassland has long been a cornerstone of the economy, yielding meat, milk and cheese, as well as honey, wild herbs and fruits, and medicinal plants. Villagers graze their cattle on the lush lower pastures and their sheep higher in the hills. The greensward provides quality feed for farm animals and is a genetic resource of fodder crops; around 60 of the 1,200 or so wild plants found in southern Transylvania are crop relatives. Hay meadows especially are a colourful carpet of grasses and wildflowers – many familiar from our own countryside, including orchids, sages, rattles, bedstraws, bellflowers and ox-eye daisies – and the hay is often still harvested by hand using traditional scythes.

These old pastoral systems lie at the heart of Romania's rural economy, but life is inevitably changing as tractors gradually replace horses. Sadly, over the past 18 years these farmland agricultural ecosystems and their rich biodiversity are being increasingly damaged. Economic development is definitely needed, but it needs to be encouraged in a way that can maintain this plant diversity and become a model for sustainable farming.

Conservationists regard these wildflower-rich grasslands as a priority, as they offer an integrated model of sustainable use of natural resources, quality food production and biodiversity conservation. Relatively intact ecosystems that maintain vital ecological 'goods and services', they reduce or prevent soil erosion, lock up carbon and soak up rain to slowly release clean water into wells, streams and rivers, ensuring both flood prevention and a secure water supply.

Since the 1990s, biodiverse grasslands such as these have been given special status by the EU as High Nature Value (HNV) grasslands, which under recent EU Rural Development legislation are designated areas that need special attention. This provides both an economic incentive for local farmers to stick with low-impact farming as HNV status means the area is eligible for EU subsidies that encourage non-intensive agriculture, and a great marketing opportunity for their produce. The region's milk, cheese and ham – unprocessed, chemical-free and with a distinct local flavour – offer consumers taste and quality that is second to none. Its polyflora honey and jams made from fruits such as blackberries, cherries, wild strawberries and rose hips are nothing short of bottled biodiversity. The meadows themselves are also now generating income from visitors who come not only to enjoy the wildflowers and prolific wildlife, but also for the region's crafts and to witness a rural way of life that has all but disappeared from the rest of Europe.

Conventional nature reserves, which in the UK and elsewhere in Europe are merely islands of diversity in a damaged landscape, cannot protect these grasslands and their wildflowers. Nor can they help the communities who created and maintain them. For Transylvania's wildflower meadows to survive they need to be integral to sustainable development, contributing to a prosperous future for local people and biodiversity. ☐

USEFUL INFORMATION

Author John Akeroyd, is a botanist and a leading authority on Transylvania's wild flora. He has recently contributed the botanical text for a new *Transylvania Florilegium*, which features more than 120 specially commissioned watercolours of the region's flora. Volume one of the *Transylvania Florilegium* is published by Addison Publications at the end of May, and a selection of its botanical illustrations will be on display in an exhibition at the Romanian Cultural Institute from 21 May to 12 June. 1 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PH. Tel 020 7752 0134, icr-london.co.uk

You can find out more about the conservation of the meadows at Fundatia ADEPT (**fundatia-adept.org**). If you want to see Transylvania's wildflower meadows for yourself then the best time to travel is from the end of May until early July, and you can find useful information on visiting the region at Discover Târnava Mare (**discovertarnavamare.org**).

Right Meadows of wildflowers, such as this colourful mix that includes *Salvia pratensis*, *Polygala major, Leucanthemum vulgare* and *Galium verum*, are home to an abundance of wildlife, including several species of butterfly.

EVERYWHERE, A BRIGHT TAPESTRY OF WILDFLOWERS ENFOLDS AND TRANSFIGURES ROADSIDE VERGES AND HILLSIDES. IT IS A SPECTACLE TO LIFT THE HEART

THE KEY PLANTS

1 *Clematis integrifolia*
An upright perennial that will form small clumps in meadows and low, open scrub on hillsides or sides of steep hummocks. 20-50cm. RHS H6, USDA 3a-7b[†].

2 *Dianthus carthusianorum*
Striking wildflower that grows on dry banks, meadows and woodland margins, variable in height and size of flower clusters. 30-60cm. RHS H7.

3 *Cichorium intybus*
From midsummer onwards it colours fallow fields with shimmering blue. There's also a white variant. 30cm-1m. RHS H5, USDA 3a-8b.

4 *Stachys recta*
Common in dry meadows and on steep sunny slopes but rather inconspicuous. The lips of the flowers are minutely but beautifully marked. 30-80cm.

5 *Salvia nutans*
Aromatic plant found on steep steppic slopes. Forms bluebell-like crowds that are visible from a distance. The flower clusters become erect in fruit. On the Romanian IUCN Red List. 60cm-1.5m.

6 *Allium scorodoprasum*
A handsome wild leek with flat, keeled leaves and heads of dark flowers. Forms patches on dry banks, and edges of meadows and paths. 40-80cm. RHS H5.

7 *Polygala major*
A magnificent, almost orchid-like milkwort forming loose patches in dry meadows and open scrub, which flowers over much of the summer. 20-60cm.

8 *Trifolium pannonicum*
The finest of the many Transylvanian meadow clovers, this has scented flowers in heads the size and shape of a bantam's egg. 30-80cm.

9 *Melica transsilvanica*
Tufted grass of dry meadow slopes, scrub and woodland margins, described from Transylvania but widespread in eastern Europe. 30-60cm.

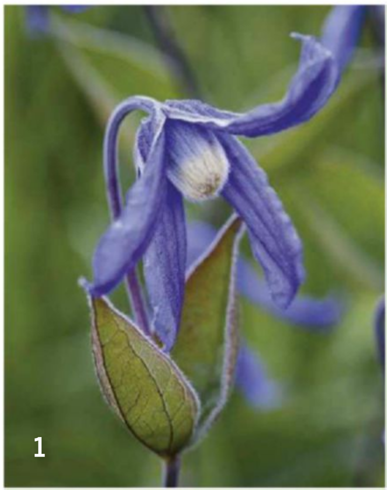
10 *Muscari comosum*
Found on dry slopes. One of few bulbous species present in the meadows. 30-50cm. USDA 5a-8b.

11 *Vincetoxicum hirundinaria*
Poisonous plant that forms upright clumps and patches, with clusters of waxy flowers. Found on dry slopes, scrub and woodland margins. 50cm-1.2m. USDA 4a-8b.

12 *Neotinea ustulata*
This elegant orchid is widespread but not, in large numbers, in old meadows or where abandoned arable land has reverted to grassland. On Romanian IUCN Red List. 10-35cm.

13 *Stachys germanica*
Common in dry meadows, pastures and fallow fields, on grassy banks and roadsides; similar to the garden favourite lamb's ear (*S. byzantina*) but a more elegant biennial. 30-80cm.

Turn the page for more key plants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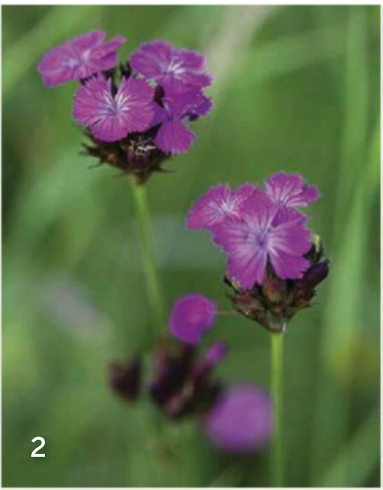
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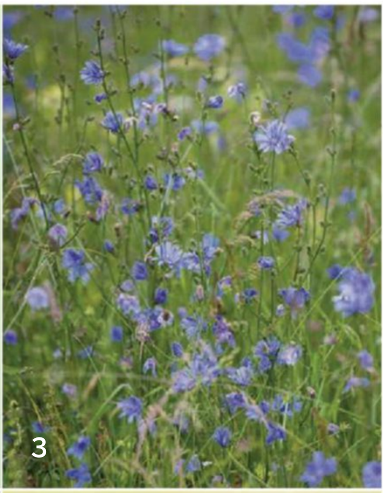
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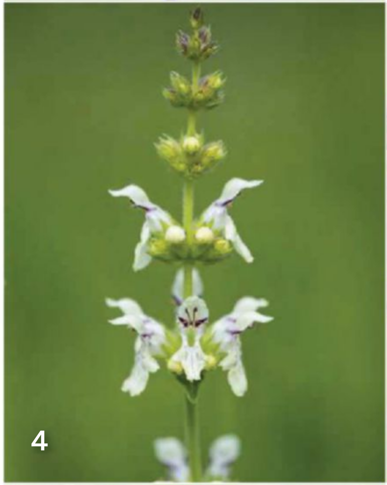
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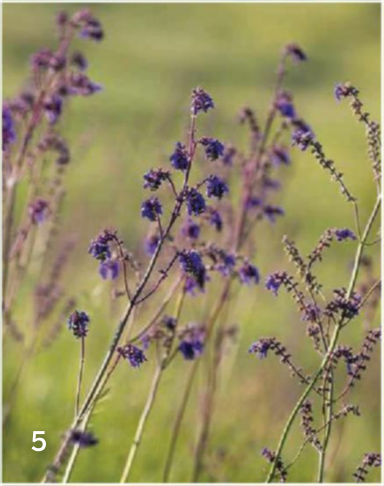
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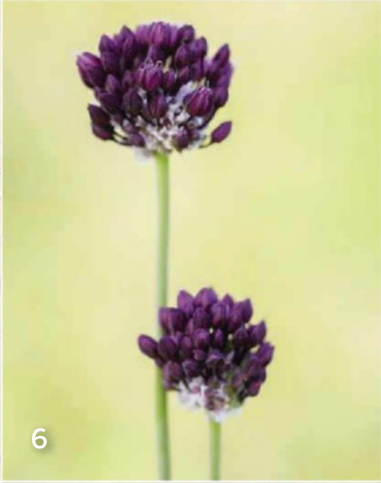
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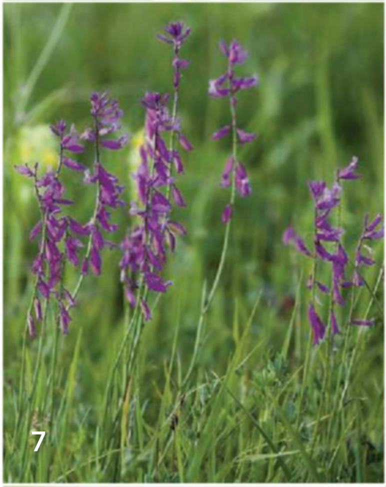
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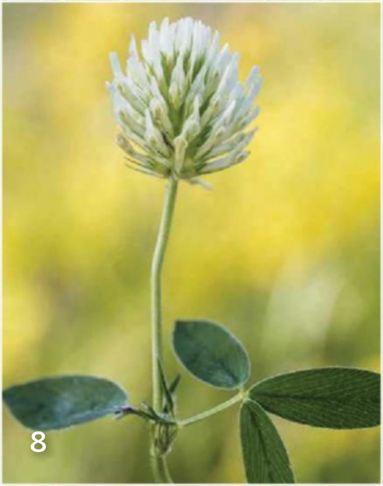
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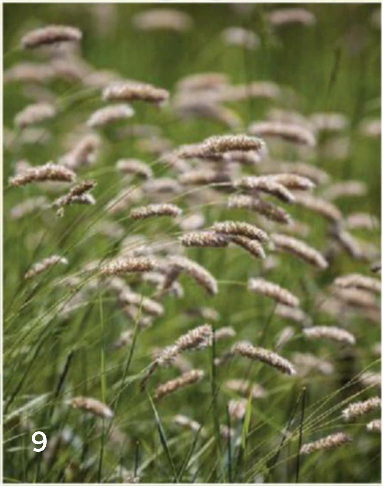
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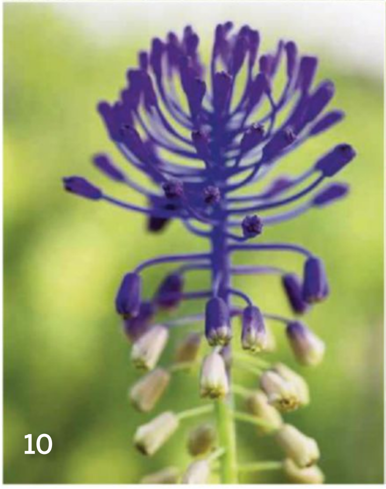
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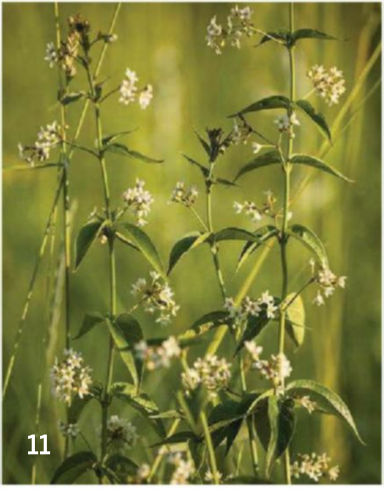
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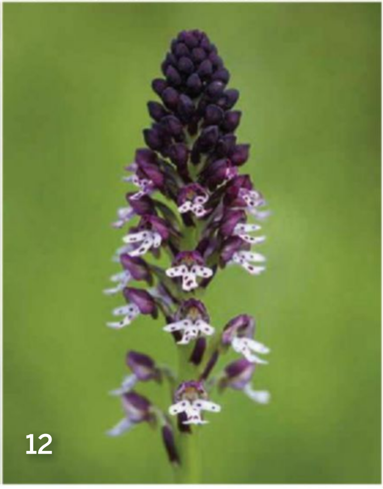
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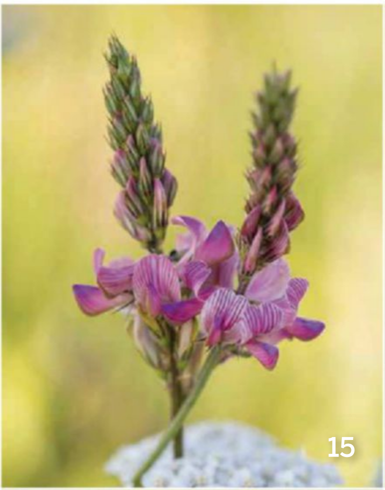
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. [†]Hardiness ratings given where available.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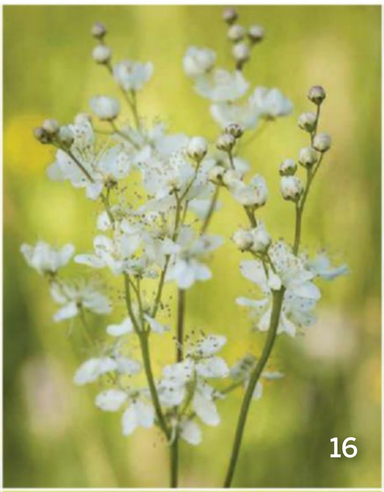
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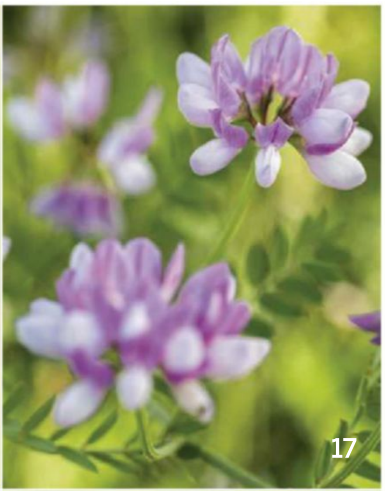
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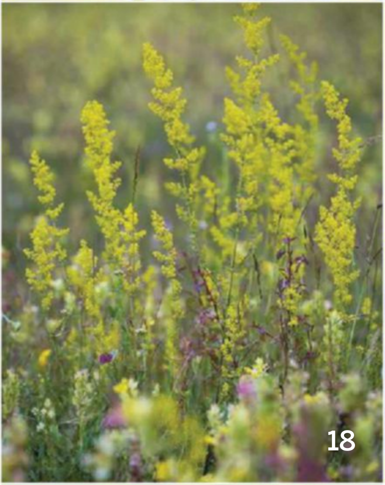
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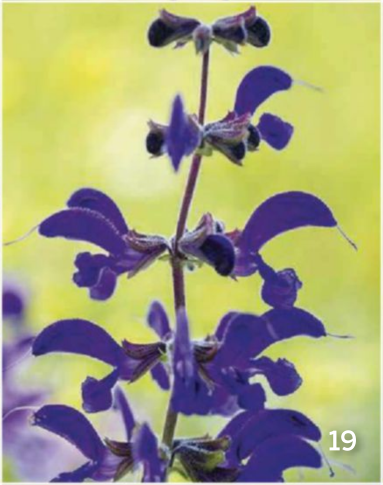
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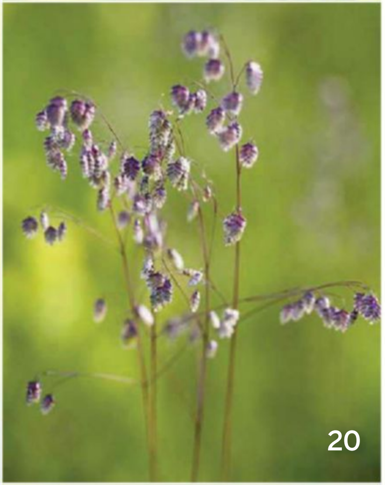
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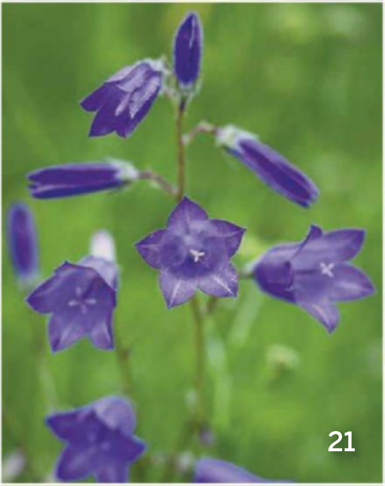
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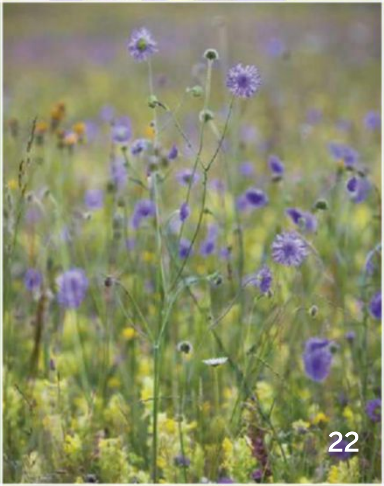
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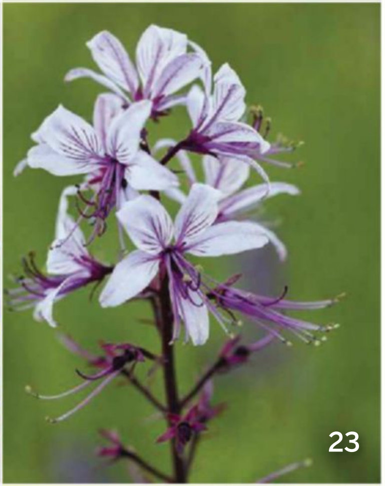
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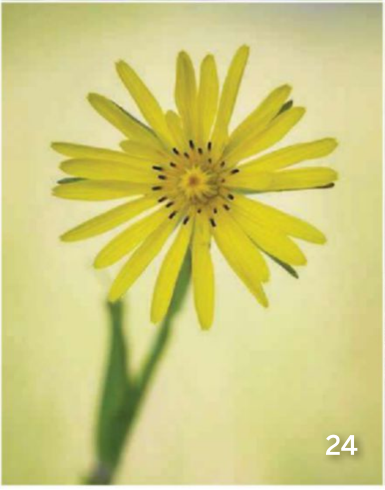
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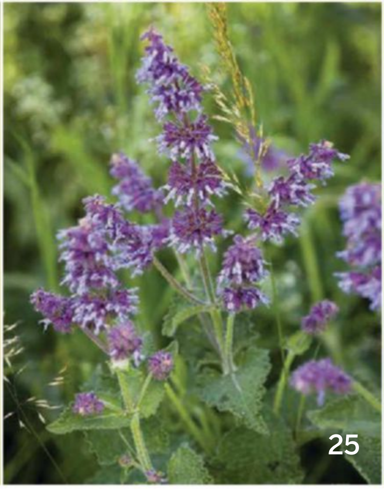
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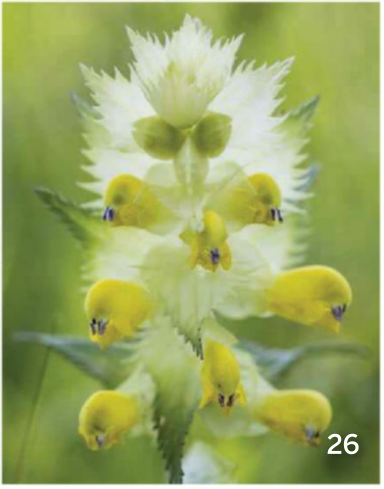
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14 ***Salvia nemorosa***
Forms dense vivid patches on steep dry banks and road-verges. One of the more noticeable of several wild sages. 30-60cm. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

15 ***Onobrychis viciifolia***
A variant of sainfoin with small fruits and pale-pink or yellowish-pink flowers. Widespread in dry meadows. 30-80cm.

16 ***Filipendula vulgaris***
Attractively toothed pinnate leaves, pink flower-buds and conspicuous clusters of creamy-white flowers make dropwort a feature of Transylvanian meadows. 60cm-1.2m. RHS H6, USDA 3a-9b.

17 ***Securigera varia***
A showy floriferous vetch with zig-zag stems that forms extended tangled patches in taller meadows, on banks and among scrub. 30cm-1.2m.

18 ***Galium verum***
An ubiquitous component of the meadow sward and an important plant in Romanian village folklore. 20cm-1.2m. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

19 ***Salvia pratensis***
Characteristic wildflower of early summer, sometimes colouring patches of dry meadows, scrub or roadside banks. There are purplish-pink and white variants. 40cm-1m. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

20 ***Briza media***
This familiar, elegant grass of UK downlands, with dainty purplish spikelets that dance in the breeze, is common too in Transylvanian meadows and pastures. 30-75cm. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

21 ***Campanula sibirica***
An upright rough, hairy plant found on dry meadows and steppic grassland on sunny slopes and the steep sides of marl hummocks. 20-50cm.

22 ***Knautia arvensis***
Often found in combination with *Onobrychis viciifolia* and *Rhinanthus rumelicus*, the numerous heads of the scabious dancing above the sward on their long stalks. 40cm-1m.

23 ***Dictamnus albus* var. *purpureus***
A showy, aromatic plant of sunny slopes, open scrub and woodland margins, with pinnate leaves and large delicate flowers; on Romanian Red List. 40cm-1m. AGM*. RHS H6, USDA 3a-8b.

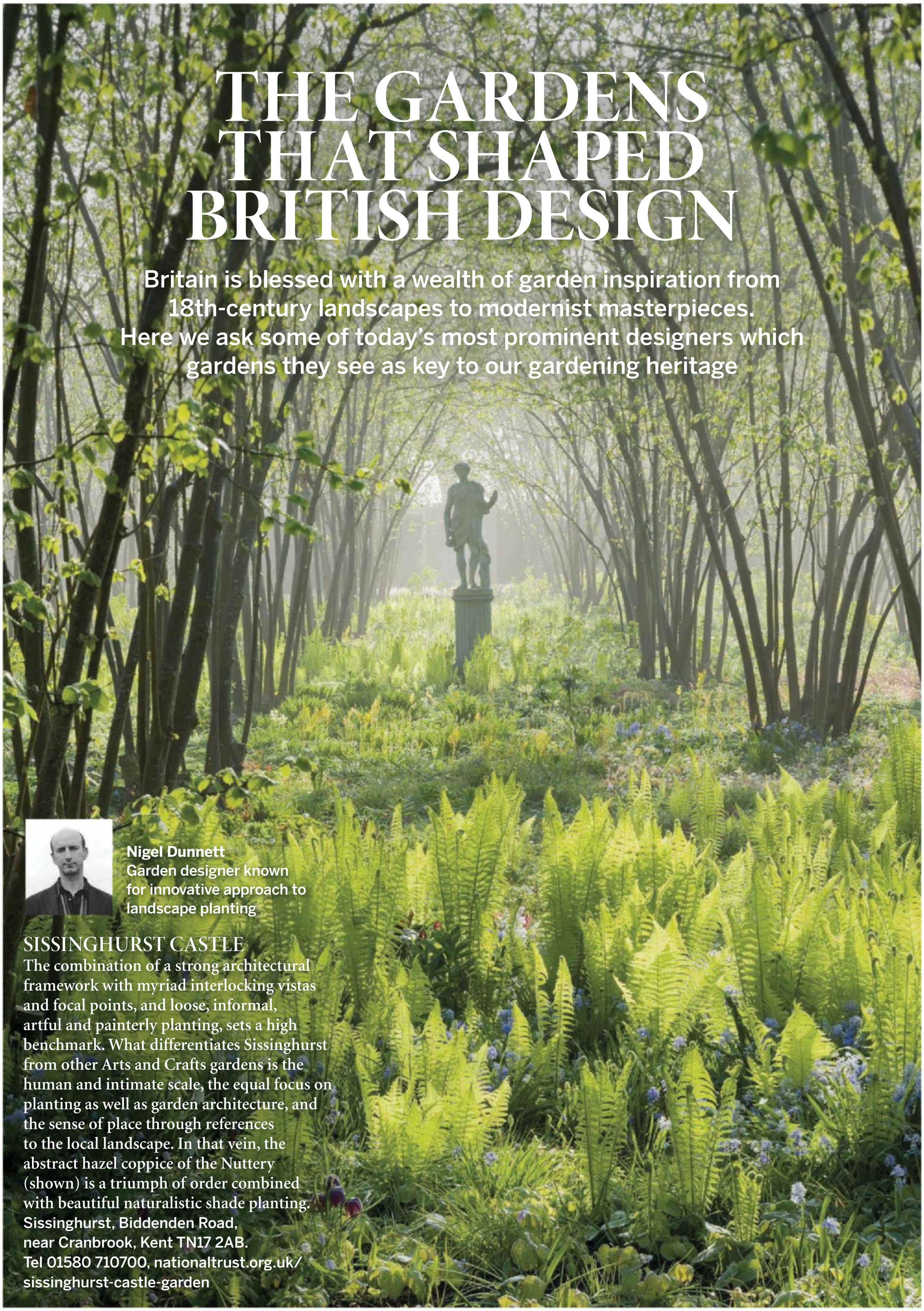
24 ***Tragopogon pratensis* subsp. *orientalis***
An annual or biennial flower common to dry meadows, grassy banks and roadsides. It is a striking, golden-flowered regional variant of the familiar goatsbeard. 30-80cm.

25 ***Salvia verticillata***
An aromatic plant of taller meadows, banks and somewhat disturbed vegetation, sometimes in dense patches by paths and on roadsides. 40-80cm. RHS H5, USDA 5a-8b.

26 ***Rhinanthus rumelicus***
This abundant, grass semi-parasite tints meadows, often whole hillsides, with yellow, especially where abandoned arable land has reverted to grassland. 20-40cm.

THE GARDENS THAT SHAPED BRITISH DESIGN

Britain is blessed with a wealth of garden inspiration from 18th-century landscapes to modernist masterpieces. Here we ask some of today's most prominent designers which gardens they see as key to our gardening heritage



NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES / ANDREW BUTLER

Nigel Dunnett
Garden designer known for innovative approach to landscape planting

SISSINGHURST CASTLE

The combination of a strong architectural framework with myriad interlocking vistas and focal points, and loose, informal, artful and painterly planting, sets a high benchmark. What differentiates Sissinghurst from other Arts and Crafts gardens is the human and intimate scale, the equal focus on planting as well as garden architecture, and the sense of place through references to the local landscape. In that vein, the abstract hazel coppice of the Nuttery (shown) is a triumph of order combined with beautiful naturalistic shade planting.

Sissinghurst, Biddenden Road,
near Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2AB.
Tel 01580 710700, nationaltrust.org.uk/sissinghurst-castle-garden

NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES / JOHN MILLER

Ann-Marie Powell

Garden designer, with a naturalistic approach, writer and presenter

BIDDULPH GRANGE

When built (it was begun in 1842), James Bateman's 26-acre garden, built upon a steeply sloping, windswept, Staffordshire site, was positively revolutionary. A desire to provide homes for his internationally collected plant treasures and a selection of garden features resulted in the first garden created as a series of rooms in the UK. All combine to dramatic effect and awe-inspiring engineering ingenuity, which celebrates exploration, intellect, originality, humour, surprise and delight.

Grange Road, Biddulph, Staffordshire ST8 7SD. Tel 01782 517999, nationaltrust.org.uk/biddulph-grange-garden

NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES / ANDREW BUTLER

Andy Sturgeon

Garden designer known for use of sculptural characteristics.

CLAREMONT GARDENS

Claremont Gardens is a masterclass in scale, space, balance and the drama of simplicity. Fundamentally this is a landscape of just grass, water, trees and rhododendrons with a few hidden jewels to discover and delight in. Charles Bridgeman's curvaceous three-acre, grass amphitheatre sits magisterially above William Kent's serpentine lake and it is hard not to see connections between this 300-year-old landscape and the work of Charles Jencks and Kim Wilkie.

Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey KT10 9JG. Tel 01372 467806, nationaltrust.org.uk/claremont-landscape-garden

SHARON PEARSON

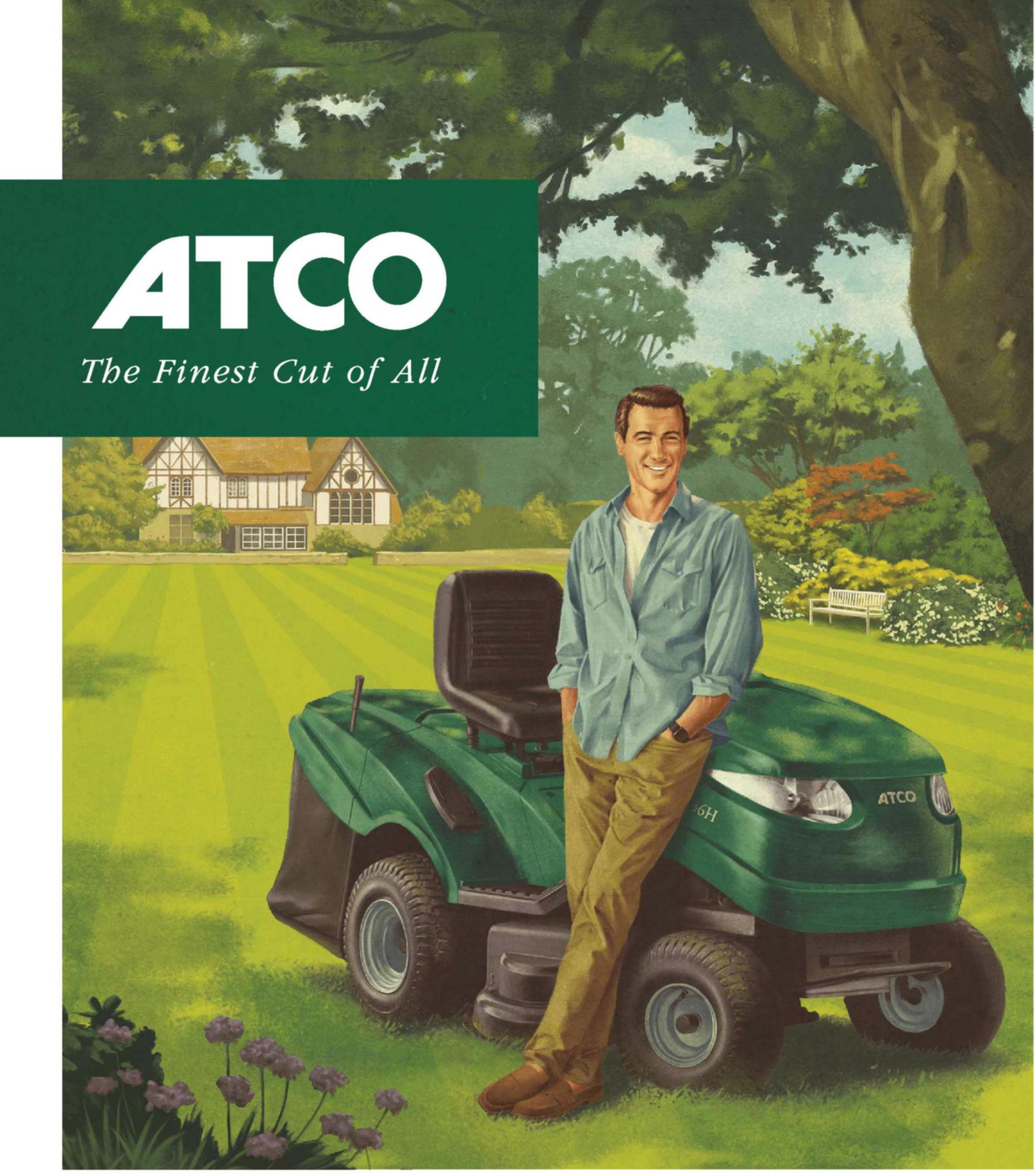
Charlotte Harris

Garden designer with an interest in layering the historical into her designs.

GREAT DIXTER

Dixter for me stands for boldness, for dynamism, for never being restricted by rules, for having the courage to try – and perhaps fail – but always to learn. It stands as a masterclass in exploring colour, form and texture. It is a place not bound by convention, timidity or fashion, and at the same time is underpinned by decades of horticultural skill and knowledge. Influence is vast – the late Christopher Lloyd's brilliant writing; to the highly regarded apprentice programme; to the garden and house itself in every season; to classes with head gardener Fergus Garrett.

Northiam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6PH. Tel 01797 252878, greatdixter.co.uk ▷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NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES / ANDREW BUTLER

Penelope Hobhouse
Garden historian, designer, writer and holder of RHS Victoria Medal of Honour.

TINTINHULL GARDEN

In 1958, totally ignorant about gardening – styles or plants – I visited Tintinhull House in Somerset, the garden laid out by Phyllis Reiss during in 1930s and 1940s. For me it was an extraordinary moment. For the first time I realised that gardening was about beauty but also about firm principles and order. Tintinhull is an Italianate garden, a series of compartments divided by hedges, linked by walks and vistas. Every line is straight, every corner a right angle, while foliage plants and seasonal flowers in carefully chosen colours, soften the outlines, disguising the rigidity.

Farm Street, Tintinhull, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 8PZ. Tel 014582 24471, nationaltrust.org.uk/tintinhull-garden

KRISTY RAMAGE

Arne Maynard
Garden designer who likes to draw out an essence of place in his gardens.

CRANBORNE MANOR GARDEN

Cranborne Manor in Dorset was the garden that awoke my passion for garden design. Every week, as a young boy, I would cycle over and wander around the garden, helping in the nursery in exchange for a plant or two. I learned about old-fashioned roses and absorbed the pattern making of the knot gardens and, more than anything else, began to understand about creating atmosphere. Although Lady Salisbury is no longer there and the garden has changed, it is still a fantastically atmospheric garden. The mix of wild and clipped is a joy.

Cranborne, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 5PS. Tel 01725 517289, cranborne.co.uk ▷

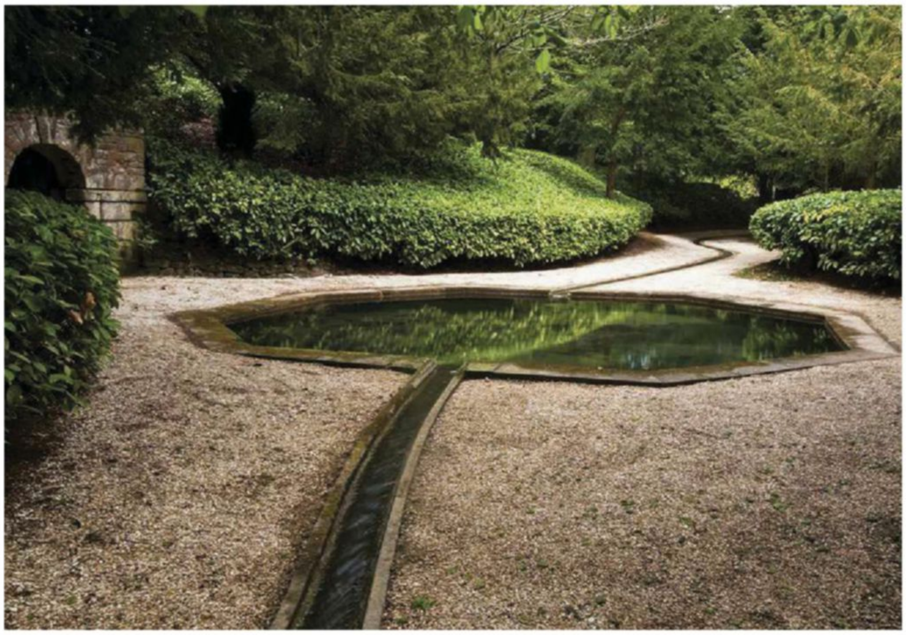
Isabel Bannerman

As a design duo, Isabel and husband Julian look to classical references.

ROUSHAM HOUSE & GARDEN

No one can doubt that the changes wrought by Charles Bridgeman and particularly William Kent at Rousham between 1719 and 1741, shaped not only British, but European and American garden design in the following century. Julian and I have long venerated this garden for its simplicity; for its wit, sensuality and heart; for the different charms of the walled garden; and for the continuity brought to it by the Cottrell-Dormer family, who commissioned it originally, and who tend it with such a light and generous hand today.

Rousham, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX25 4QU. Tel 01869 347110, rousham.org



ANDREW BASKOTT / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

Kim Wilkie

Landscape architect involved in projects that encourage interaction.

JOHN F KENNEDY MEMORIAL AT RUNNYMEDE

The JFK Memorial is Geoffrey Jellicoe's finest work. Simple steps of granite setts are laid straight into the soil and follow the natural topography up to the memorial. The design is such a light touch that you hardly notice that a designer has been involved, and the effect is at once very gentle and subtly strong. It is a comfortable climb that encourages you to concentrate on the trees, the light and the rhythm of walking.

Runnymede and Ankerwycke, Windsor Road, near Old Windsor, Surrey SL4 2JL. Tel 01784 432891, nationaltrust.org.uk/runnymede-and-ankerwycke

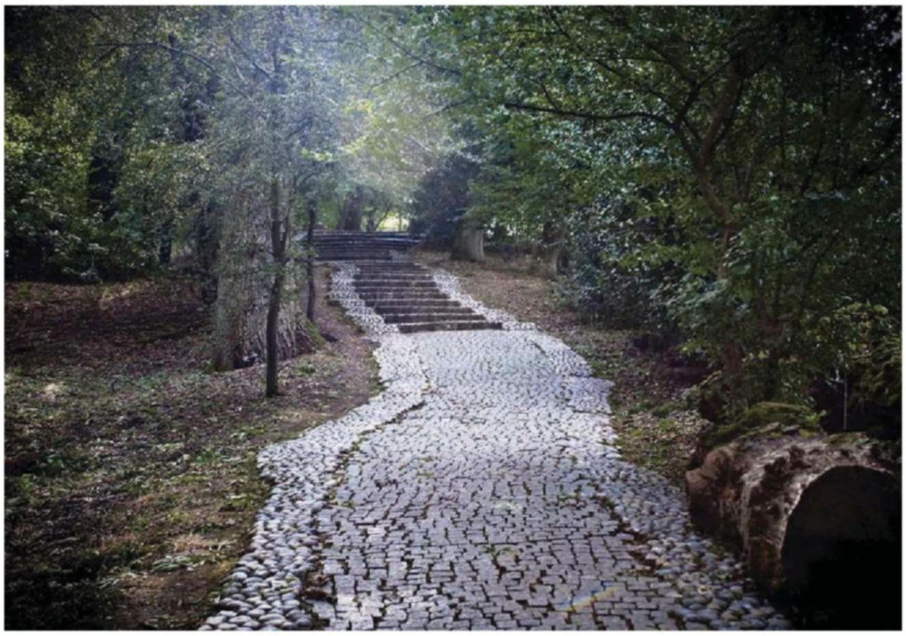


FOTO-ZONE / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

Andrew Duff

Garden designer and director of Inchbald Garden Design faculty.

DENMANS GARDEN

The home of the late John Brookes, this is the perfect place to see where the father of modern garden design experimented with planting combinations and his dynamic approach to line. For me spring is the perfect time to visit, as the dominance of the structural planting is evident. Denmans is 90 per cent evergreen, which allows for the play of light to extend through the seasons, the greatest complement to spring bulbs and blossom.

Denmans Lane, Fontwell, Westergate, West Sussex BN18 0SU. Denmans will re-open 1 June. Tel 01243 941961, enquiries@denmans.org ▷

ANDREA JONES IMAGES / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Grand tour

This summer, delight your senses with the spectacular gardens of the historical icon, Leeds Castle

Leeds Castle, located in Kent, was once described as 'the loveliest castle in the world' by historian Lord Conway, and it's easy to see why when you set foot in its exquisite grounds. The castle boasts more than 500 acres of stunning gardens and parkland, an abundance of wildlife, and attractions and adventure aplenty – not to mention its rich history. No matter how many times you visit, there are always new wonders to be experienced and fresh sights to be marvelled at.

PAST AND PRESENT

Leeds Castle began as a Norman stronghold in the 11th century, before becoming the private property of six of England's medieval queens. It was then used as a palace by Henry VIII and his first wife Catherine of Aragon. When the Tudor dynasty ended, the building took on the identity of a Jacobean country house, but later reverted to a more traditional style of castle that is still evident today. Under the ownership of Lady Baillie in the early 20th century, it was transformed into a retreat for the influential and famous. When she died in 1974, she left the castle and its grounds to the specially-created charity, the Leeds Castle Foundation. Now, it is one of Britain's most visited historic buildings.

GARDEN VARIETY

The Lady Baillie Mediterranean Garden Terrace is a firm favourite among Leeds Castle visitors. Designed by landscape architect Christopher Carter, the exotic garden is an ideal spot for relaxing and enjoying the superb views across the Great Water. The Culpeper Garden, meanwhile, has a much more English feel to it, with roses, lupins and poppies dispersed among exotic blooms to create a sea of colour and scent. Originally the castle's kitchen garden, it became a cut flower garden under Lady Baillie's ownership, before being turned into a large cottage garden by designer Russell Page in 1980.

Last but not least, the Woodland Garden, which lies alongside the River Len, is a wonderful way to approach the castle. The carpet of daffodils and anemones offers a striking burst of vibrancy, and later in the year visitors can enjoy the splendour of azaleas and rhododendrons too. The Woodland Garden is currently undergoing a redevelopment, which over the next few years, will see it transform into six individual gardens that will excite the senses. Leeds Castle also has a moat that can be appreciated from a guided tour on a punt from April to October.

TO FIND OUT MORE AND PLAN YOUR VISIT, GO TO **LEEDS-CASTLE.COM**

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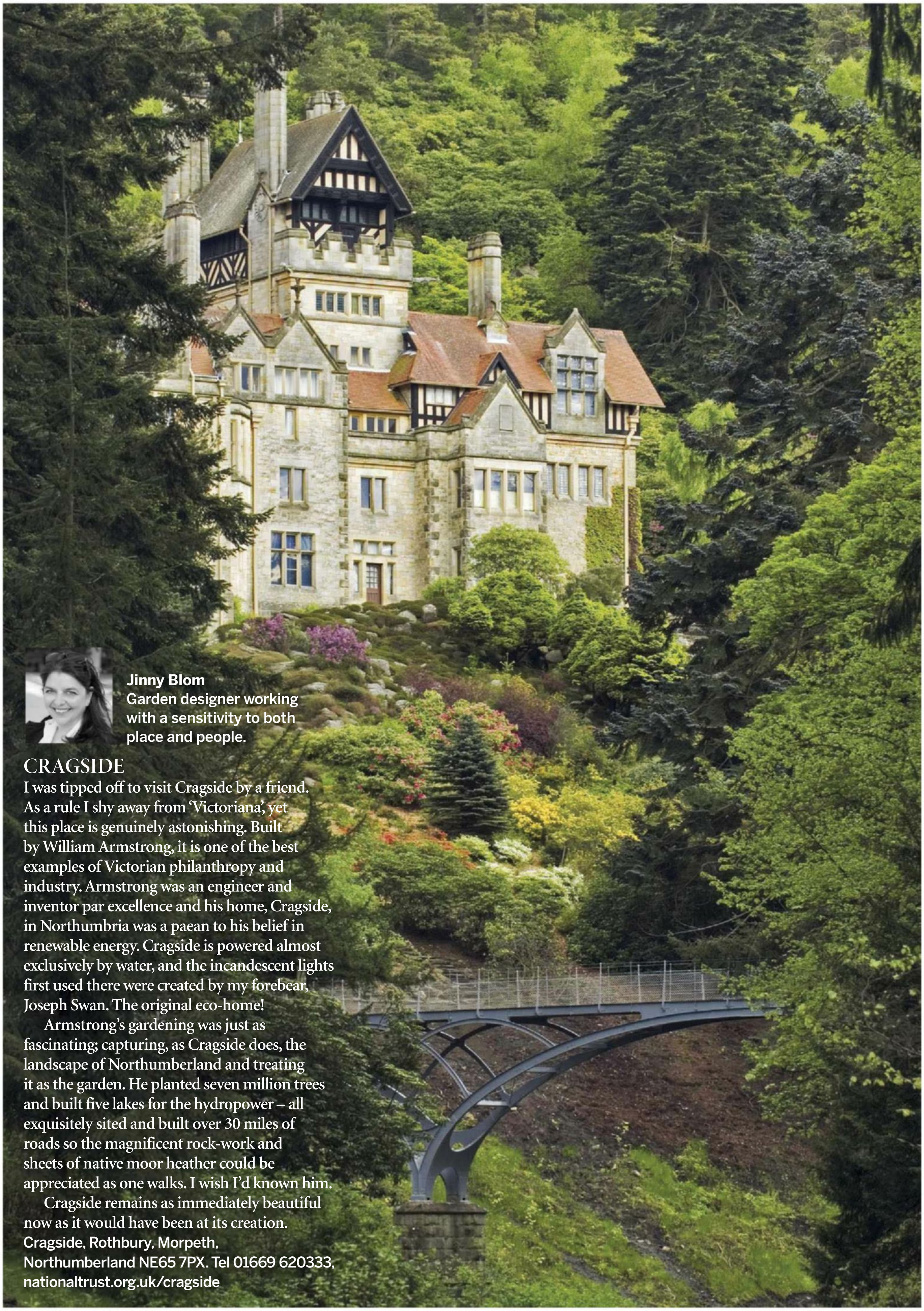

NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES / SIMON FRASER

Jinny Blom
Garden designer working with a sensitivity to both place and people.

CRAGSIDE

I was tipped off to visit Cragside by a friend. As a rule I shy away from 'Victoriana', yet this place is genuinely astonishing. Built by William Armstrong, it is one of the best examples of Victorian philanthropy and industry. Armstrong was an engineer and inventor par excellence and his home, Cragside, in Northumbria was a paean to his belief in renewable energy. Cragside is powered almost exclusively by water, and the incandescent lights first used there were created by my forebear, Joseph Swan. The original eco-home!

Armstrong's gardening was just as fascinating; capturing, as Cragside does, the landscape of Northumberland and treating it as the garden. He planted seven million trees and built five lakes for the hydropower – all exquisitely sited and built over 30 miles of roads so the magnificent rock-work and sheets of native moor heather could be appreciated as one walks. I wish I'd known him.

Cragside remains as immediately beautiful now as it would have been at its creation.

Cragside, Rothbury, Morpeth,
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nationaltrust.org.uk/cragside

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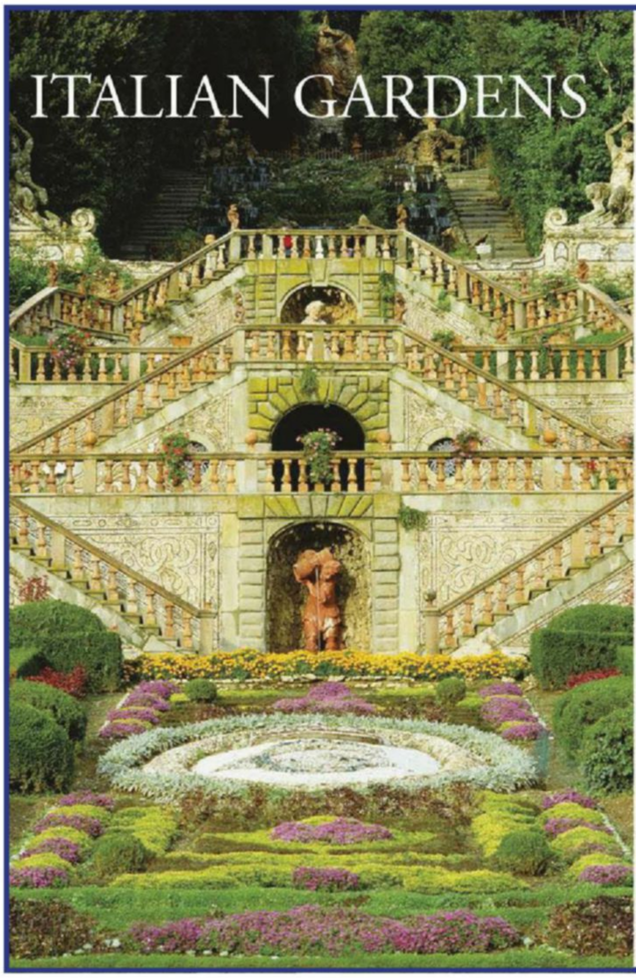

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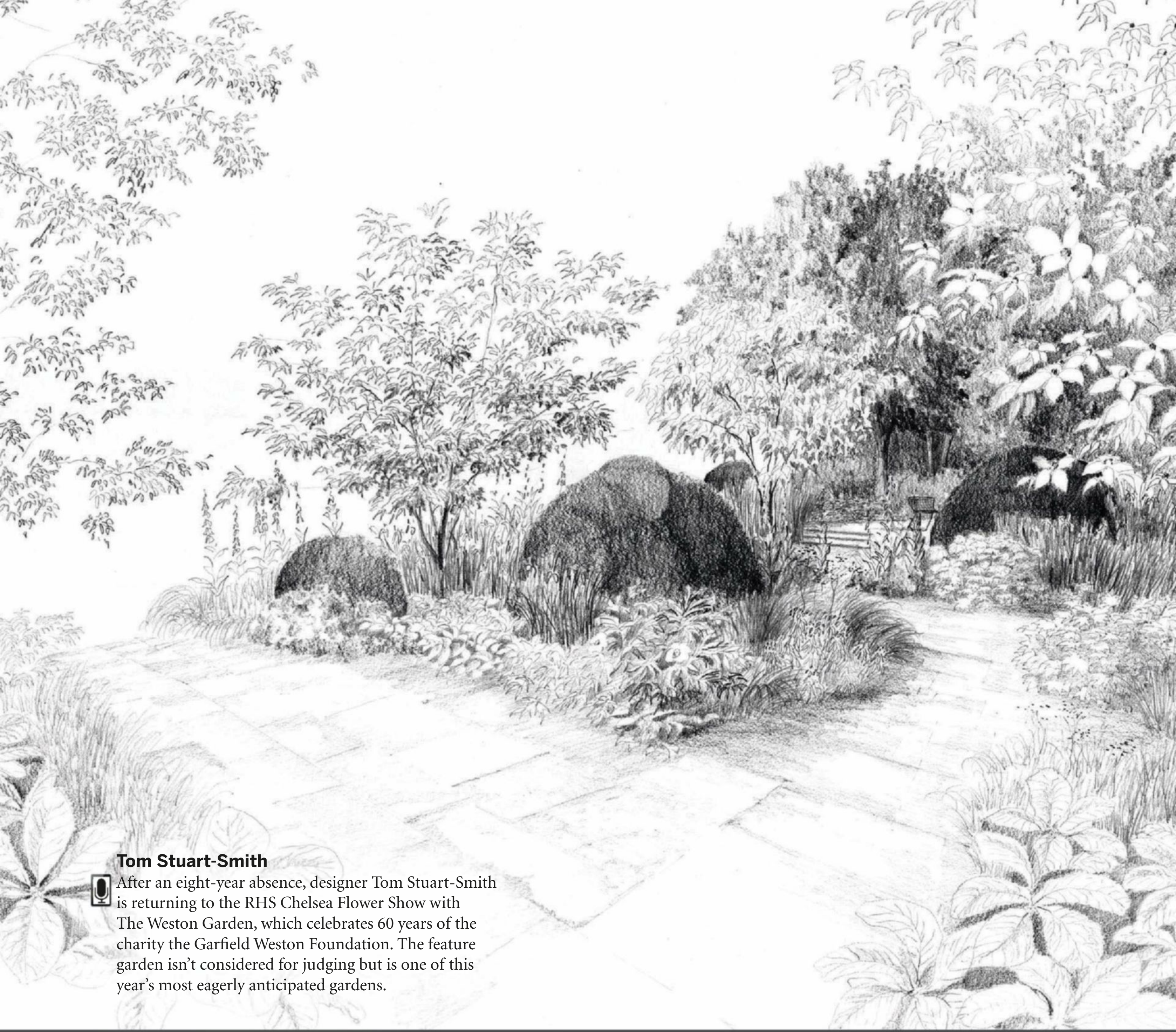

Tom Stuart-Smith
After an eight-year absence, designer Tom Stuart-Smith is returning to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show with The Weston Garden, which celebrates 60 years of the charity the Garfield Weston Foundation. The feature garden isn't considered for judging but is one of this year's most eagerly anticipated gardens.

CHELSEA 2018 PREVIEW

Show details

Opening dates 22-26 May 2018.

Buying tickets
Advance purchase only. Tickets are limited – go to **rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-chelsea-flower-show** to check availability.

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TOM STUART-SMITH

Contents

100 Chelsea show gardens
We take a look at some of this year's gardens and find out the inspiration behind them, including the best in the Artisan and new Space to Grow categories

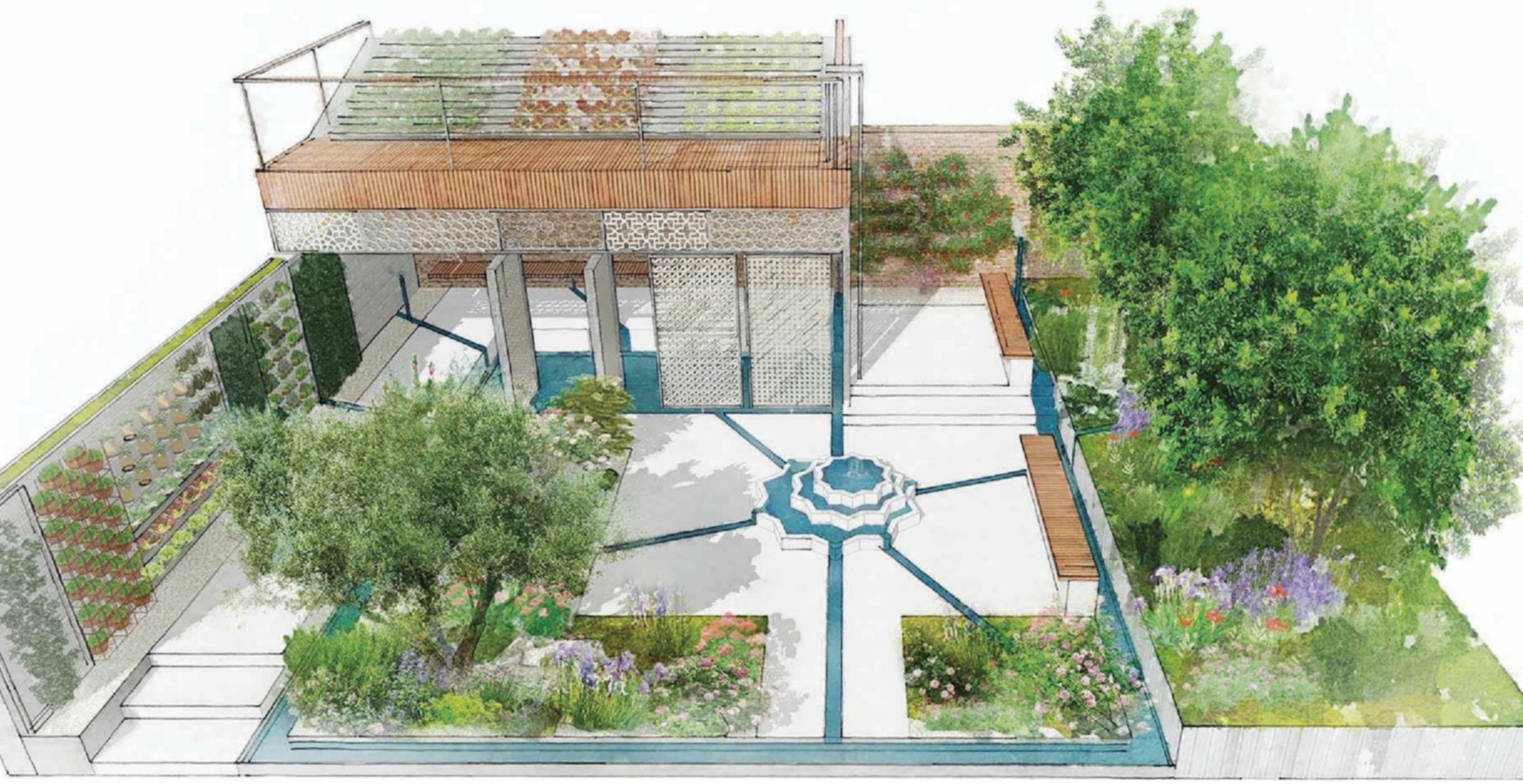
110 Critics' shortlist
Leading garden designers and critics give us their picks for Best in Show and what they're most looking forward to at Chelsea

113 What not to miss this year
Feature gardens, products and plants to look out for in the Great Pavilion and beyond

CHELSEA SHOW GARDENS

A first look at the gardens designed for this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show, and the plants, people and places that have inspired them

WORDS ANNIE GATTI



Tom Massey

PROFILE

Name Tom Massey.

Training Garden Design Diploma.

Chelsea history This is Tom's first Chelsea garden. He has won one gold medal and one silver gilt at RHS Hampton Court Palace Show.

Plot MA336.

Sponsor Lemon Tree Trust.

Contractor Landscape Associates.

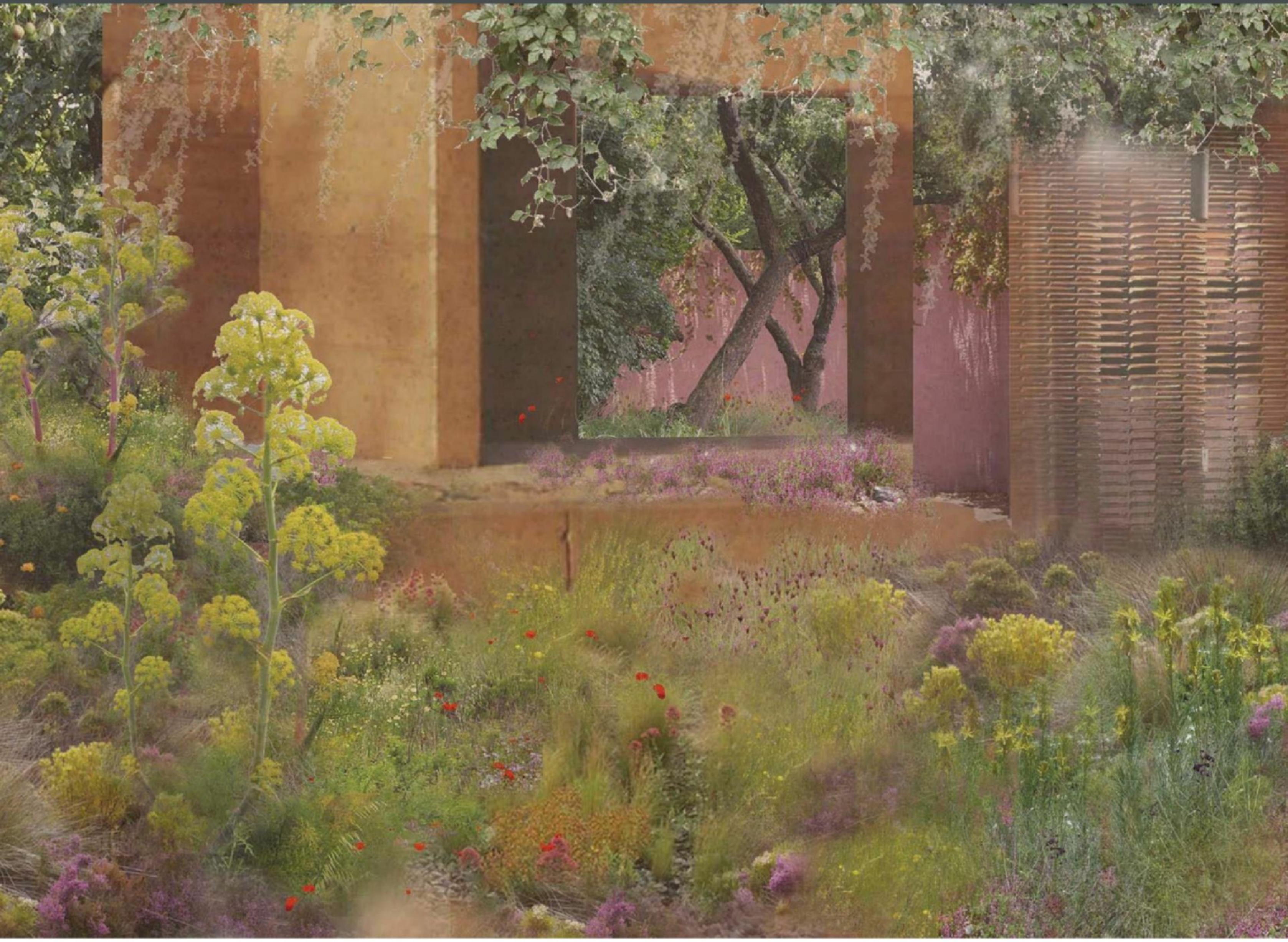
Theme The importance of gardens to displaced people who live in extreme conditions.

Contact 07946 406619, tommassey.co.uk

"The sponsor, the Lemon Tree Trust [see issue 257, page 80], wanted a garden that would display the ingenuity, beauty and resourcefulness of the gardens made by refugees in Domiz camp in northern Iraq. It also wanted to showcase the work it's doing to encourage people to green their spaces and improve their living conditions.

"I had lots of videos and footage of the refugees' gardens for inspiration, but rather than use every single idea I picked out things that I felt would work well in the context of the Chelsea Flower Show. One of my main challenges was to reign in the Chelsea aesthetic to create something that works for the show but also has that element of rawness. All the materials in the garden are widely available in the camp – steel, concrete, timber – but we're elevating these materials in the way they're constructed. For example, the concrete will be polished, the timber will be meticulously cut and crafted, and the steel will be laser cut into intricate Islamic inspired designs. It's a fine balance to get something that has integrity and references to the camp but also works as a Main Avenue garden at Chelsea.

"The people living in Domiz camp have such small plots they don't have space for a productive bed and a separate ornamental area, so they mix ornamentals with edibles. Our garden will have mixed planting, too, and it will be very colourful. I want it to have a joyful feeling. We are using some of the edibles grown in the camp such as fenugreek and chickpeas, which may not be familiar to UK gardeners."



Sarah Price

PROFILE

Name Sarah Price.

Training BA Fine Arts, gardener at Hampton Court Palace.

Chelsea History One gold medal and two silvers.

Plot MA320.

Sponsor M&G Investments.

Contractor Crocus.

Theme A densely planted garden of Mediterranean sub-shrubs and grasses, shot through with an exuberant mix of flowers, that uses sustainable raw materials for structures and landscaping.

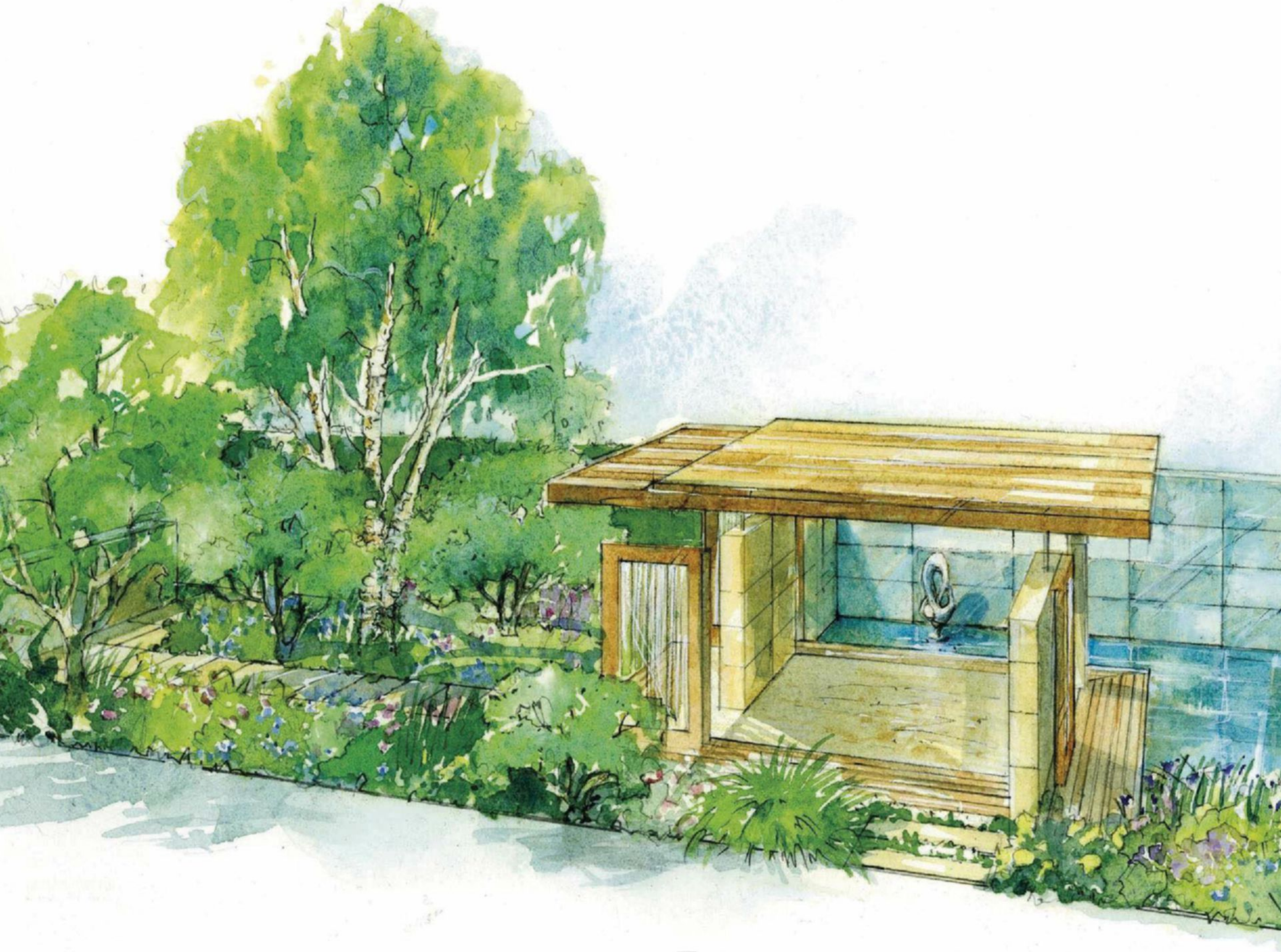
Contact 020 7703 3973, sarahpricelandscapes.com

"Two years ago, I visited the Royal Academy's *Painting the Modern Garden* exhibition. Getting up close to Monet's huge paintings, you could see layer upon layer of really quite clashing colours and it was electrifying. I was determined to create a garden that has a similar, luminous use of colour.

"Each time you do Chelsea, you really want to conjure up a different atmosphere. My last garden in 2012 was very understated, and used British native flora. This time I wanted to push myself out of my comfort zone and experiment with plants that originate from Mediterranean climates. There'll be amazing horn poppies, the exotic *Daucus carota* subsp. *gummifer*, lots of euphorbias and *Crithmum maritimum*, a lovely umbellifer. Many drought-tolerant plants are included, which are perfectly suited to our warming climate.

"I always start a design with strong spatial geometry. With this garden, I started off with a square, divided it into four and took a 45-degree angle off the side. Although it's quite an elaborate design, essentially I wanted to expand on the timeless idea that a wall, a tree and a seat can create an intimate and beautiful place to be.

"Rammed earth, which I used in my 2008 garden, is the most beautiful material to work with. This time I've chosen a more orange clay with purple tones and I'm using it to make an archway, steps, platforms and seating. Because there are a lot of things going on in this garden, I want the rich tones of this earthy landscape material to bring cohesion to the space." ▷



Chris Beardshaw

PROFILE

Name Chris Beardshaw.

Training Degrees in Horticulture and Landscape Architecture.

Chelsea history Six gold medals, two silver gilt and one bronze.

Plot MA323.

Sponsor Morgan Stanley.

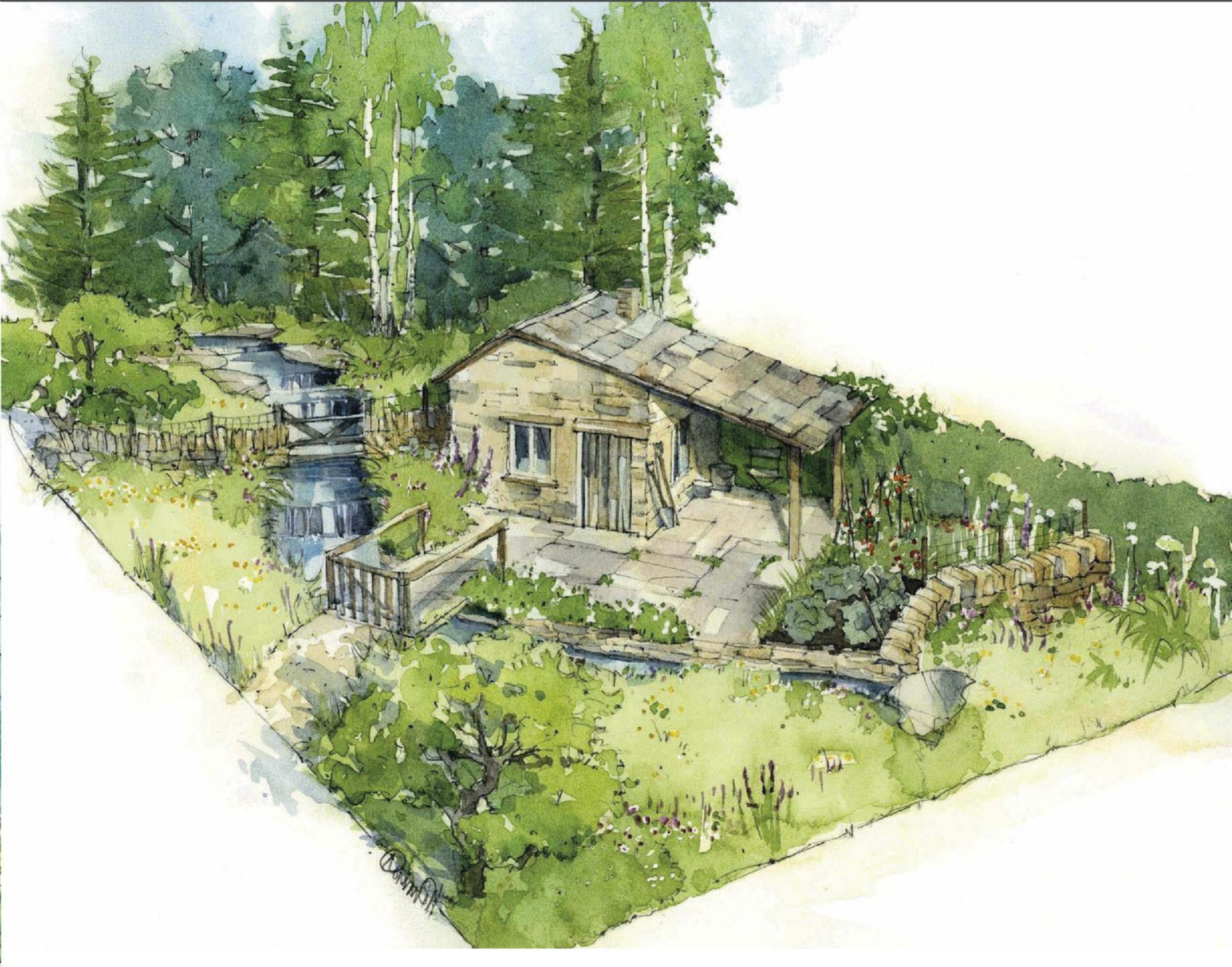
Contractor Structure Group.

Theme A woodland-edge garden that expresses the journey from confusion to self-assurance that a child can take when they seek help from the NSPCC's counselling service Childline.

Contact 07721 450355, chrisbeardshaw.com

"This is probably the most challenging of all of the Chelsea gardens we've done in terms of conveying the narrative of the organisation allied to the sponsor – in this case, the NSPCC and the work it does with Childline. What interested me, after talking to various people involved in Childline, was the transformative process from the point when a child makes initial contact to when that child has become confident and self-assured. I came up with the idea of a passage, with staged points along the way that allow you to realise that progress is being made. A series of walls that appear to block your way mark these stages. If you choose to go round them, the journey continues until you reach the elevated cedarwood pavilion, which offers an element of security and comfort. The opaque sliding doors allow you to create a completely closed space.

"The woodland planting at the entrance path is deliberately quite congested, to suggest a child's initial confused state, and its floral tones are muted. A multi-stemmed *Betula nigra*, glimpsed beyond the 1.5m-high wall, draws you into the garden. As you move towards the pool at the back, the plants are more massed together, and make a stronger and bolder effect. I wanted to play around with less well-known woodland perennials, such as the simple and elegant *Paeonia obovata* and *Cortusa matthioli*. I also want to include some that are often overlooked, such as *Mertensia virginica*, with its fabulous sky-blue flowers, *Dodecatheon meadia* and various podophyllums."



Mark Gregory

PROFILE

Name Mark Gregory.

Training OND Horticulture.

Chelsea history Three gold medals and one silver gilt as a designer. As MD of Landform Consultants, he has constructed more than 90 Chelsea gardens, 33 of them gold medal winners.

Plot MA325.

Sponsor Welcome to Yorkshire.

Contractor Landform Consultants.

Theme A garden that celebrates the beauty of the Yorkshire Dales.

Contact 01276 856145, landformconsultants.co.uk

"I was asked to pitch for the design of this garden and the brief was to demonstrate how beautiful Yorkshire is and what wonderful foods it produces. I wanted to pay homage to traditional artisan products such as Wensleydale cheese and to the unique Dales landscape it comes from.

"This will be my fifth design for Chelsea, and I've never done a 22x10m garden before or one that contains so many plants. I've never done a cottage garden, either, but it's nice to be tested as a designer, and for me getting the planting right will be the challenge.

"There are two distinctive parts of the garden – the cottage garden around the bothy and the naturalistic landscape that it sits in – and these need to flow together. The cottage garden planting will be very blowsy and flowery with lots of vegetables mixed in. To achieve that seamless flow, I plan to use plants that 'jump across' from the cottage garden to the landscape. For example, there'll be cultivated forms of foxglove and cow parsley in the cottage garden and wild forms over the wall.

"This is a very specific landscape and the detailing will make it authentic. The sheep gate across the stream is tied to the wall on each side with baler twine, and the wall will be topped with stock wire as it often is on Dales farms.

"I think one of the tricks of good design is not to see everything at one go. As you move around this garden, three different views will be revealed. The idea is to inspire people to visit Yorkshire and experience its natural beauty." ▷

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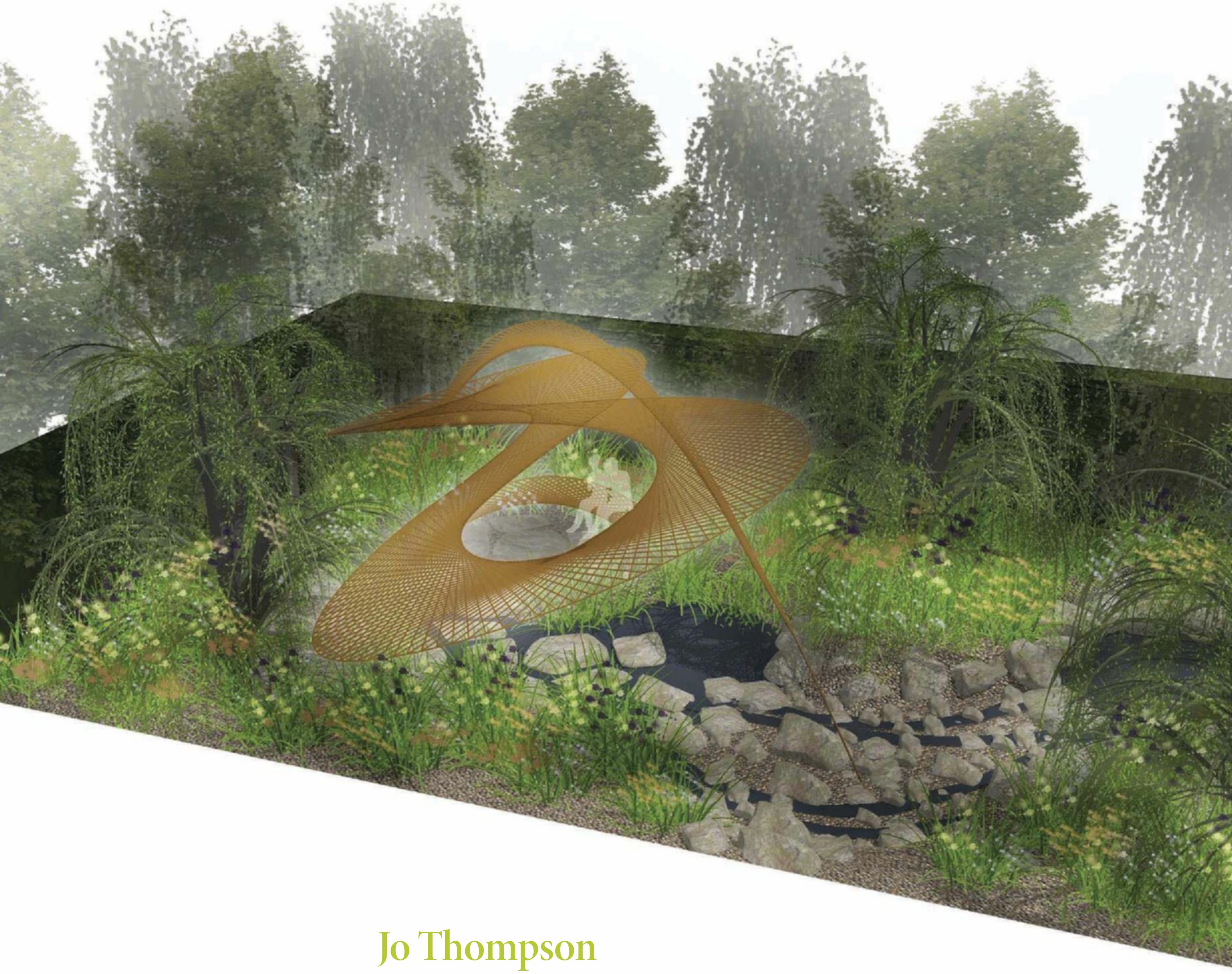


Jo Thompson

PROFILE

Name Jo Thompson.

Training Garden Design Diploma, English Gardening School.

Chelsea history Three gold medals and five silver gilt.

Plot RGB12.

Sponsor Wedgwood.

Contractor Bespoke Outdoor Spaces.

Theme An elegant garden of curves and organic shapes that has been designed to be a peaceful retreat for a modern woman.

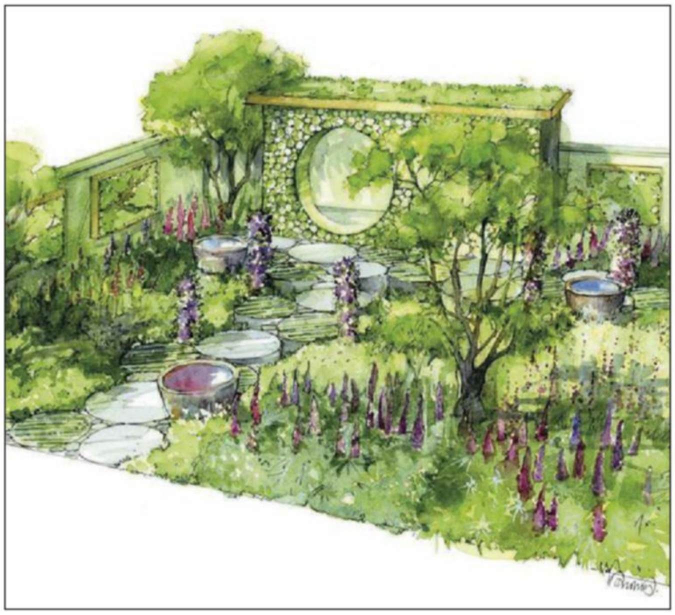
Contact 01580 201593, jothompson-garden-design.co.uk

"As a brief, I was given the words: inspirational, feminine, innovative, romantic, sophisticated and elegant. My reaction was that I wanted to create a garden for a 21st-century woman with a sculptural pavilion as the centrepiece. I was inspired by two completely different pieces: a basketware Wedgwood porcelain that had an ethereal shape but was also quite strong; and Barbara Hepworth's *Winged Figure* outside the John Lewis store in London's Oxford Street, which has a solid frame but looks and feels light.

"Our pavilion is as much a sculptural piece as it is a practical structure. The coated steel 'strings' make a series of curved shapes as you look at them from different directions. It's nearly 4m high and 8m at its longest, but because it's not solid it is less imposing, less masculine.

"I'm using Yorkstone boulders, rocks and paving in an organic way, to balance the man-made structure. In places we're linking the paving to the sculpture by inserting molten metal into the seams and cracks in the stone. This is a detail you could have in a real garden.

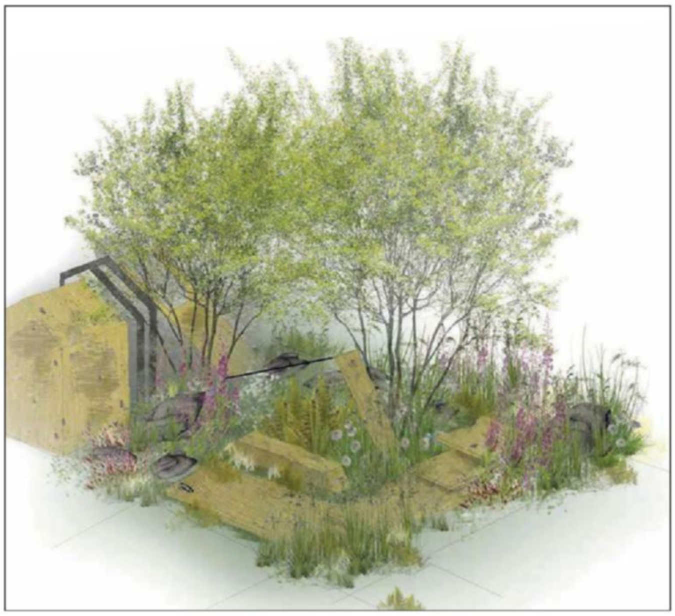
"I wanted a weeping shape for the main trees and have chosen *Salix exigua* as it's elegant without being too ornamental or forced. The colour palette of yellow, blue, purple, rust and peach is new for me, and draws on Josiah Wedgwood's colour trials. The nurserywoman Marina Christopher has introduced me to some lovely plants I've not used before, including *Trachymene coerulea* (blue lace flower) and *Eremurus* 'Romance'." ▷



Catherine MacDonald

Plot	Spaces to Grow RHW291
Sponsor	Seedlip
Contractor	Landform Consultants
Theme	A conceptual garden celebrating plants belonging to the pea family

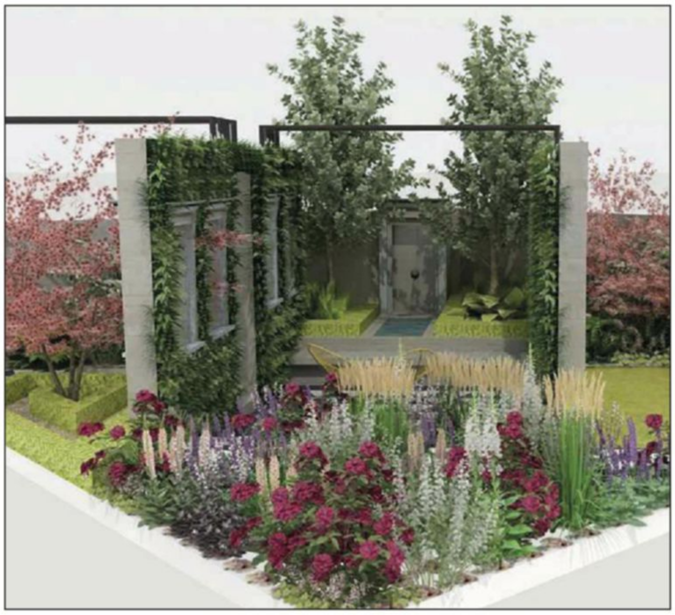
Although this garden champions plants from the *Fabaceae* family and the scientific work of pea pioneers Gregor Mendel and Calvin Lamborn, it has all the hallmarks of a stylish and expertly executed show garden. Underpinned by a subtle grid, the planting, a mixture of edibles that includes sugar snap and mange tout peas and ornamentals, such as lupins and baptisia, extends down the garden in cushions of foliage and flowers. Japanese pagoda trees (*Styphnolobium japonicum*) and a specimen carob (*Ceratonia siliqua*) create the canopy layer. A bold walkway of alternating limestone and metal-grille discs, edged with pillars of sweet peas, leads through the planting to a glass-sided 'peavilion' with a pea-shaped, moongate entrance.
Contact 01276 856145, landformconsultants.co.uk



Paul Hervey-Brookes

Plot	Artisan 560
Sponsor	Viking Cruises
Contractor	GK Wilson Landscapes
Theme	A tranquil garden inspired by Scandinavian plants and structures

For his Viking Cruises Wellness Garden, Paul has drawn on Brutalism, a modernist architectural style first identified in Sweden, for the unadorned sauna building, the metal-edged plunge pool and the angular wooden bench in this Scandinavia-inspired garden. A timber walkway links the sauna to the pool at the back of the garden, where slate boulders are used to retain the slope. A series of floating platforms in Scandinavian pine lead from the back to the deck at the front of the garden. An ancient mulberry creates a focal point in front of the pool while the soft planting, in shades of pink, purple and blue, consists of species predominantly found in Scandinavia, including edibles, woody perennials and shrubs.
Contact paulherveybrookes.com



Kate Gould

Plot	Spaces to Grow RHW287
Sponsor	Sir Simon Milton Foundation supported by New West End Company
Contractor	Kate Gould Gardens
Theme	A contemporary public square that incorporates green technology

This compact square is divided into interlinking areas that offer different moods and views. At its heart is a sunken seating area, enclosed by fern-clad walls with windows that offer views across the square to a small parterre on one side, and a lawn bordered by a sculpture wall on the other. Kinetic paving harvests energy from the footfall of the garden's users to power lighting and water features, while also providing a route round the perimeter. A metal pergola creates privacy from the surrounding buildings. Acers and a katsura tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) provide light shade and the planting in the main border is a riot of pinks, blues and wine.
Contact 01923 839733, kategouldgardens.com ▷

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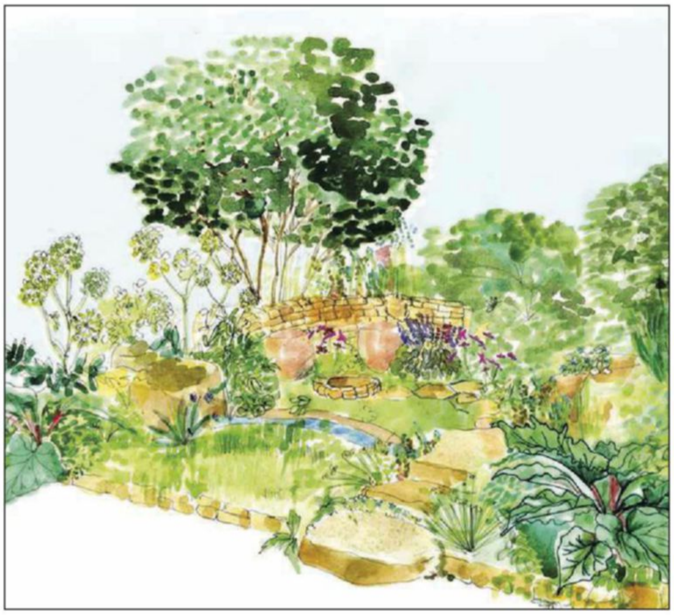
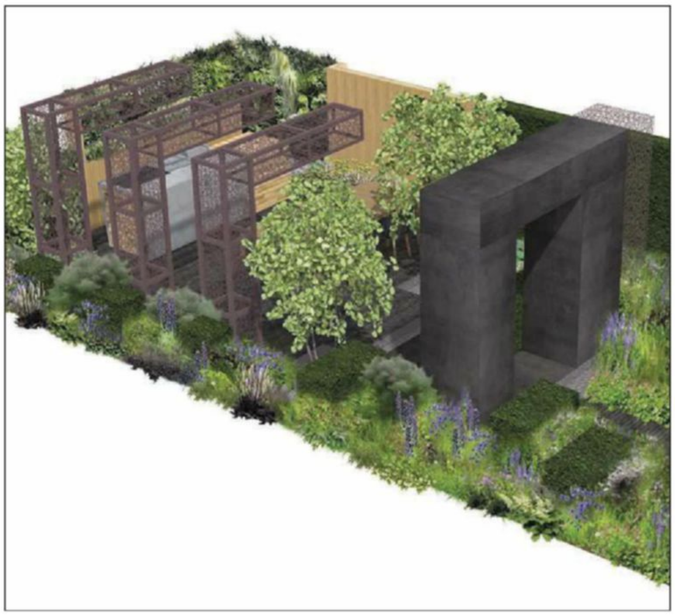


Kate Savill and Tamara Bridge

Plot	Artisan 568
Sponsor	Warner Edwards
Contractor	Frogheath Landscapes
Theme	A bee-friendly garden rich in plants used to flavour artisan gins

Featuring plants, such as rhubarb, elderflower and blackthorn, that are used to flavour gins, this garden for Warner Edwards Northamptonshire gin distillery uses limestone for the dry-stone walls, stepping stones and boulders. A rill of spring water separates a grassy meadow, dotted with herbs, from a sheltered botanical garden, where bespoke copper seats provide seating around a drystone firepit. Copper is also used to retain the bank to the back of the garden. Beyond the freestanding wall, the planting becomes more naturalistic, ending in a native hedge.

Contact 07792 657777 (Kate) and 07901 807338 (Tamara), gardensbykateand tamara.co.uk

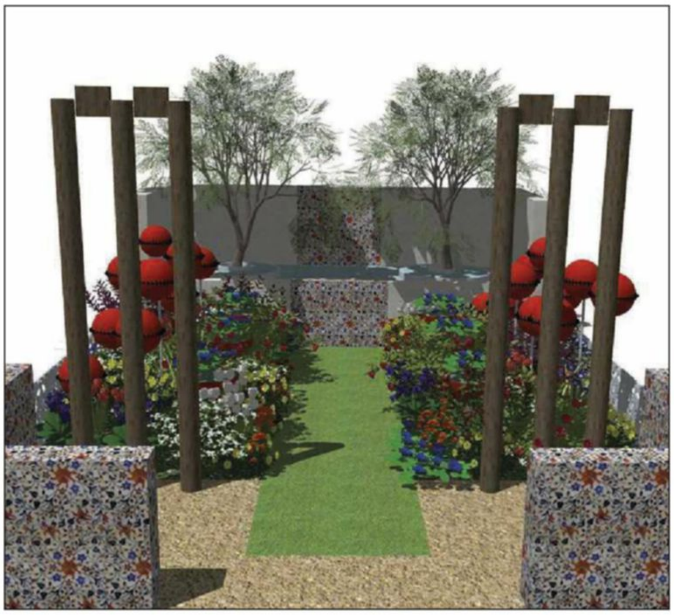


Tony Woods

Plot	Spaces to Grow RHW286
Sponsor	Thames Water
Contractor	Garden Club London
Theme	A contemporary rain garden to cope with climate change

A large, steely-grey arch clad in a new porcelain-hard material sets this garden in a built-up space. A pathway of permeable clay pavers leads through this arch to the social space where bespoke Corten steel structures provide privacy from neighbouring buildings. At arm's reach, beside the polished steel kitchen, is a living wall planted with a wide selection of herbs and edibles including salads and edible flowers such as borage and nasturtium. Two reservoirs, topped with laser-cut grilles, capture excess rainwater and provide an opportunity to grow moisture-loving plants. Blocks of clipped yew anchor the mixed planting, which includes drought-tolerant species at border edges. Multi-stem *Ginkgo biloba* trees have been chosen for their resistance to air pollution.

Contact 020 3735 5138, gardenclublondon.co.uk



Sarah Eberle

Plot	Artisan AR564
Sponsor	British Council
Contractor	Belderbos Landscapes
Theme	The cultural and horticultural connections between India and the UK

Towering cricket wickets suggest temple pillars at the entrance to this strongly geometric garden that's inspired by the Mughal gardens of northern India. Low walls of pietra dura inlaid marble frame the garden. The eye is led down the central 'crease' to a water tank where two *Salix babylonica* appear to float on the surface. The rectangular beds on either side of the central path are planted with species that are important to Indian culture, such as marigold and jasmine, and plants from the Indian subcontinent that have horticultural connections with Britain, such as *Meconopsis* and *Vanda* orchids. Floating above the brightly coloured planting, on single stems, is a layer of cup-shaped planters resembling cricket balls cut in two.

Contact 01256 895754, saraheberle.com

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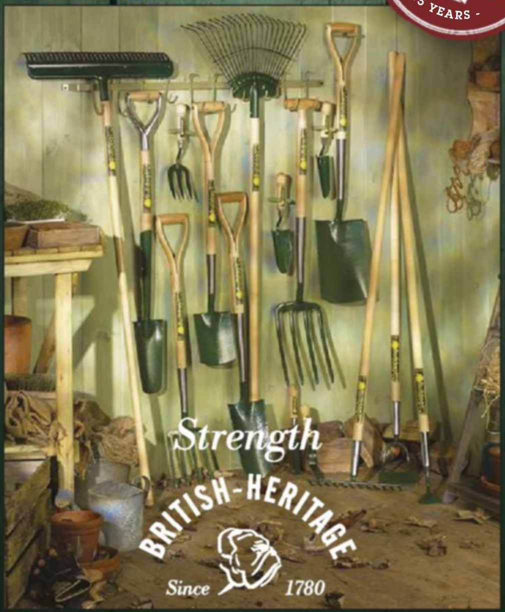

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CRITICS' SHORTLIST

Ahead of the official judging we asked critics, including previous Chelsea winners and the RHS's newest Young Designer of the Year, to pick their personal winners

	Main Gardens	Artisan Gardens	Space to Grow
 James Basson A designer based in the South of France, James won Best in Show at Chelsea in 2017.	**My shortlist (favourite in green)** **+ The M&G Garden** **+ The Wedgwood Garden** **+ The Morgan Stanley Garden** **+ Welcome to Yorkshire Garden** Sarah Price is without a doubt the artist among designers. The design for her show garden this year has a strong, pared-back architecture that will be complemented by and will also contrast with the soft tones of the planting. This will create a harmony that is sure to be both seductive and believable.	**+ The Viking Cruises Wellness Garden** **+ The British Council: India Garden** **+ The Embroidered Minds Epilepsy Garden** **+ The Warner Edwards Garden** The simplicity of materials and colour help to pull off a lot in a small space. The scale of the trees will add to the sense of privacy and seclusion. The sculptural architecture has a practical use and the complex yet pared-down planting scheme reveal Paul Hervey-Brookes's wide experience and his strength and sensitivity as a designer.	**+ The Seedlip Garden** **+ New West End Garden** **+ Skin Deep** Catherine MacDonald has been a quiet yet notable force at Chelsea over the past few years, but she always delivers exquisite, well-thought-out gardens. Just as Sarah Price is the artist among designers then Catherine is the scientist. She has made a bold choice to focus on just one family of plants – *Fabaceae* or the pea. The end result will undoubtedly be exciting.
 Ula Maria Landscape architect Ula is RHS Young Designer of the Year 2017.	**+ The M & G Garden** **+ The Lemon Tree Trust Garden** **+ The Wedgwood Garden** **+ The Morgan Stanley Garden** Sarah Price's vision for her garden this year takes inspiration from a natural landscape, elevating it to an evocative and elegant space that triggers connections to nature. The deliberate introduction of unexpected, contrasting and clashing colours to the planting palette is exciting and in Sarah's hands sure to be astonishing.	**+ The Viking Cruises Wellness Garden** **+ Resilience Garden** **+ The Warner Edwards Garden** **+ The Japanese Hospitality** The ideas behind contemporary Nordic designs and aesthetics have been incredibly influential in recent years. Paul Hervey-Brookes's garden seems to distil the essence of the particular Nordic style of outdoor living and manages to interpret it in a clever way that is perfect for today's small gardens in urban environments.	**+ Urban Flow in Partnership with Thames Water** **+ New West End Garden** **+ Skin Deep** **+ The Seedlip Garden** The Urban Flow garden responds to many of the environmental issues we are facing today, and it's important we showcase how they can be tackled in imaginative ways. This garden has ideas for water conservation, and flood and pollution limitation that should make all garden enthusiasts curious.
 Ulf Nordfjell An award-winning Swedish designer, Ulf won Best in Show at Chelsea in 2009.	**+ The M&G Garden** **+ The Morgan Stanley Garden** **+ Welcome to Yorkshire Garden** **+ The Lemon Tree Trust Garden** What's gardening is about? At its heat it's a timeless idea that a wall, a tree and a seat can create an intimate and beautiful place of repose. Sarah Price's design for this year is calm but elegant, underlined by sunlight and shadows. The garden promises to create a warm feeling of being in a transformed Mediterranean landscape.	**+ British Council: India Garden** **+ The Viking Cruises Wellness Garden** **+ The Claims Guys: A Very English Garden** Designer Sarah Eberle has come up with a modern twist on the concept of an Indian Garden, which will hopefully inspire those with smaller gardens to embrace other cultures. The concept is based on India and England's shared love of cricket, and marks the culmination of the UK-India Year of Culture.	**+ Urban Flow in partnership with Thames Water** **+ The Seedlip Garden** **+ The Cherub HIV Garden** Tony Woods' Urban Flow garden has a strong environmental focus with a vision for water conservation that will minimise water consumption. The design wants to show how environmental landscaping can be achieved within a modern concept by using contrasts in the structures of building elements and the planting.
 Tim Richardson Tim is a columnist, garden critic and leading garden thinker.	**+ The M&G Garden** **+ Welcome to Yorkshire Garden** **+ The Wedgwood Garden** **+ The Morgan Stanley Garden** The hot favourite has to be Sarah Price. This is a designer who paints with plants, working with colour, texture and perspectival effects to produce dreamily bewitching worlds in which to get pleasantly absorbed. We are promised a pool and pomegranate trees – but it's all about that planting. Perhaps the softness will balance out last year's Maltese quarry garden.	**+ The Japanese Hospitality Garden** **+ The Warner Edwards Garden** **+ The Viking Cruises Wellness Garden** **+ British Council: India Garden** This year promises another strong showing in the Artisan gardens. Sarah Eberle is always a force to be reckoned with but she may be pipped to the post by Japanese designer (and Chelsea veteran) Kazuyuki Ishihara, whose plans for this year include a water cascade and pavilion.	**+ The Seedlip Garden** **+ New West End Garden** **+ The Pearlfisher Garden** **+ Urban Flow in partnership with Thames Water** The central conceit of Catherine MacDonald's garden – that every plant is a member of the pea family – is likely to delight the RHS judges and impress visitors. It's rare to come across a horticultural focus that is this acute. With its pea-shaped stepping-stone path and 'peavilion', it could emerge as a quirky winner.

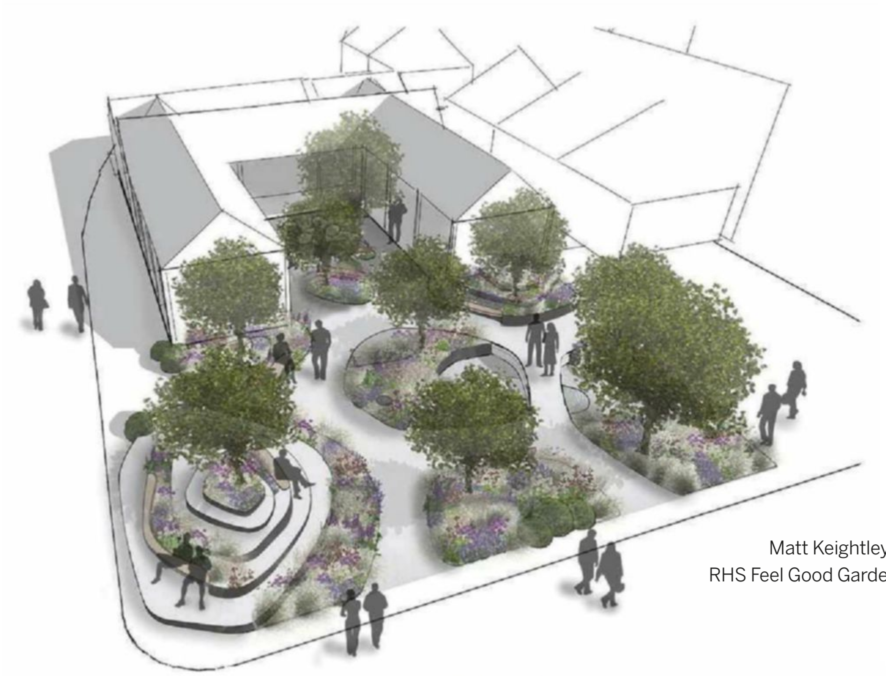
One to watch

The Weston Garden, designed by Tom Stuart-Smith. The past few years have seen a movement towards a landscape approach in show gardens and now the modern master Tom Stuart-Smith is back with a feature garden in the Great Pavilion to remind us of the importance of the garden as a garden rather than a landscape. Coming up fast is the designer Matt Keightley who is a worthy companion to Tom in the feature gardens this year with his RHS Feelgood Garden.

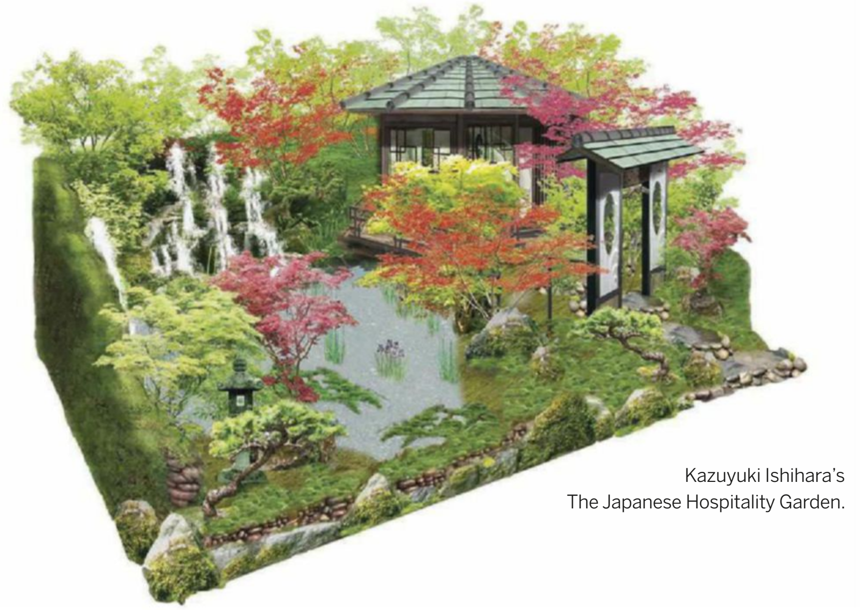
Tom Stuart-Smith's design for The Weston Garden. One of the most exciting events this year is the fact that the garden genius Tom Stuart-Smith is returning to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show after an eight-year absence to create The Weston Garden in the Great Pavilion. The designer will demonstrates how you can create an extraordinary space using only reclaimed and recycled materials, including reused plants and trees.

RHS Feel Good Garden by designer Matt Keightley. This is a teaser of the new garden at RHS Wisley in Surrey that is due to open in 2020. It's a contemporary and therapeutic space that focuses on the health benefits of gardening. Whether that's the act of gardening itself or simply being in a green space that has a tremendous impact on health and wellbeing. The garden design is timeless and will hopefully attract the new generation to visit RHS Wisley.

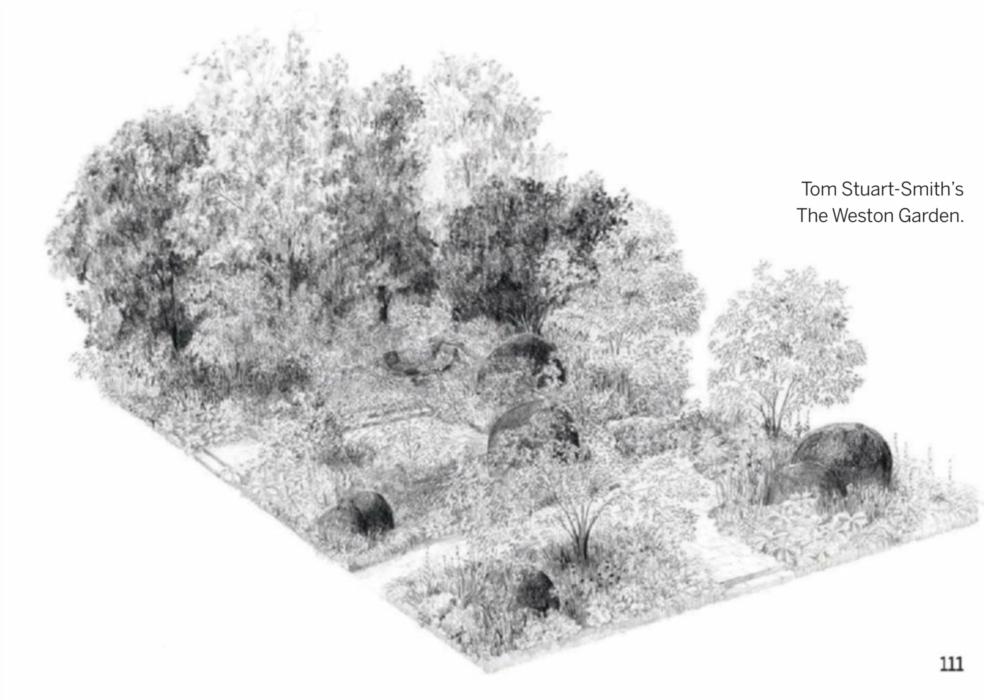
Naturalistic planting with a female slant. There has been a dearth of women designers at Chelsea in recent years, while last year saw the likes of Nigel Dunnett and James Basson essaying a muscular style of natural planting. Charlotte Harris, meanwhile, opted to 'quote' from wild nature. In 2018 look out for Sarah Price and Catherine MacDonald offering perhaps a slightly different tone in their designed plantings. Can garden style be 'gendered'?



Matt Keightley's
RHS Feel Good Garden.



Kazuyuki Ishihara's
The Japanese Hospitality Garden.



Tom Stuart-Smith's
The Weston Garden.

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WHAT ELSE?

Our selection of the best products, plants and feature gardens to look out for at the show

❶ **Sitting comfortably**
Shortlisted for RHS Chelsea Product of the Year, the Skal is a beautifully sculptural chair by Mojosi design studio, inspired by curling winter beech leaves. Made in either beech or oak and available laminated or steam bent, the chair's design uses traditional boat-building techniques. Prices start from £575. mojosi.com. Stand number **AR546**.

❷ **Plant hunting wonders**
Look out for the Crûg Farm Plants display for more unusual planting ideas. This year Sue and Bleddyn Wynn-Jones are celebrating the work of Edwardian plant hunter Ellen Willmott with inspiration from her garden on the Italian Riviera, including aspidistra. More than just a house plant, it's a useful solution for areas of dry shade. crug-farm.co.uk. Stand number **GPB124**.

❸ **The enemy within**
Along with climate change and new virulent pests and disease, invasive garden 'escapees' are making us think about the way we garden. To find out more about which plants we should be avoiding the Property Care Association's Invasive Weed Control Group has a display showcasing plants of concerns. property-care.org/homeowners/invasive-weed-control/ Stand number **GPA102**.

❹ **Underwater garden**
The state of our oceans has taken centre stage as the reality of decades of polluting behaviours are highlighted. The Pearlfisher Garden, designed by John Warland, will represent above ground the beauty of the world underwater. Plants such as cacti and succulents represent corals and seaweeds, while the wall of the garden comprises thousands of recycled water bottles, representing the plastics pollution entering our oceans daily. Stand number **RHW284**.

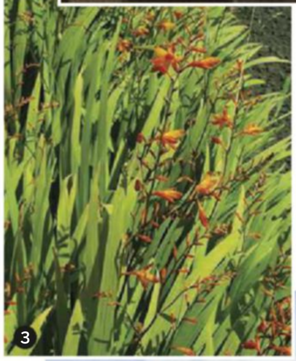
❺ **Art in the garden**
Artist David Harber has been exhibiting his sculptural artworks at Chelsea for 20 years – with this year seeing him venture out into his first collaboration in a show garden, working with real estate services provider Savills. Each of David's artworks has been created bespoke for the garden with his showcase piece *Aeon* in bronze and gold plate, promising to create quite a statement. davidharber.com. Stand number **MA322**.

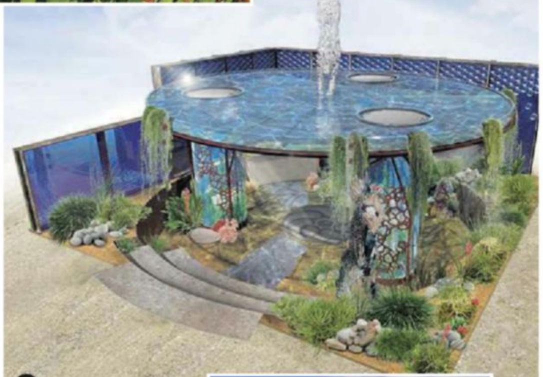
❻ **Rose tinted**
Rose expert Peter Beales Roses is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and to mark the occasion is launching a new climbing rose, 'Fragrant Celebration'. The apricot-pink flowers are beautifully blowsy and have a sweet perfume. peterbealesroses.co.uk. Stand number **GPF186**.

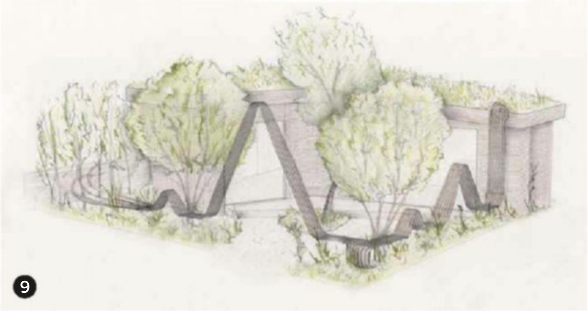
❼ **Them indoors**
With the popularity in houseplants soaring, the Plants Work houseplant display in the Great Pavilion makes for an inspiring and informative stand. Created by award-winning Indoor Garden Design in conjunction with IKEA, the display highlights both the beauty and health benefits of including plants in your home. indoorgardendesign.com. Stand number **GPA137**.

❽ **Sharing the love**
Hardy's Cottage Plants is celebrating 30 years of the nursery. Among an always noteworthy selection of plants, look out for new introductions *Gaillardia* 'Apricot Honey' with soft apricot-coloured flowers and *Polemonium yezoense* 'Kaleidoscope' with unusual leaf colouring tinged in purple. hardyplants.co.uk. Stand number **GPC166**.

❾ **Bending and shaping**
Tom Raffield studio returns with new items added to the range of contemporary, steam-bent furniture and lighting. Its stand has a prime position on Main Avenue and has been created along with planting by award-winning designer Darren Hawkes. Look out for the new hanging planter and plant stand. tomraffield.com. Stand number **MA330**.







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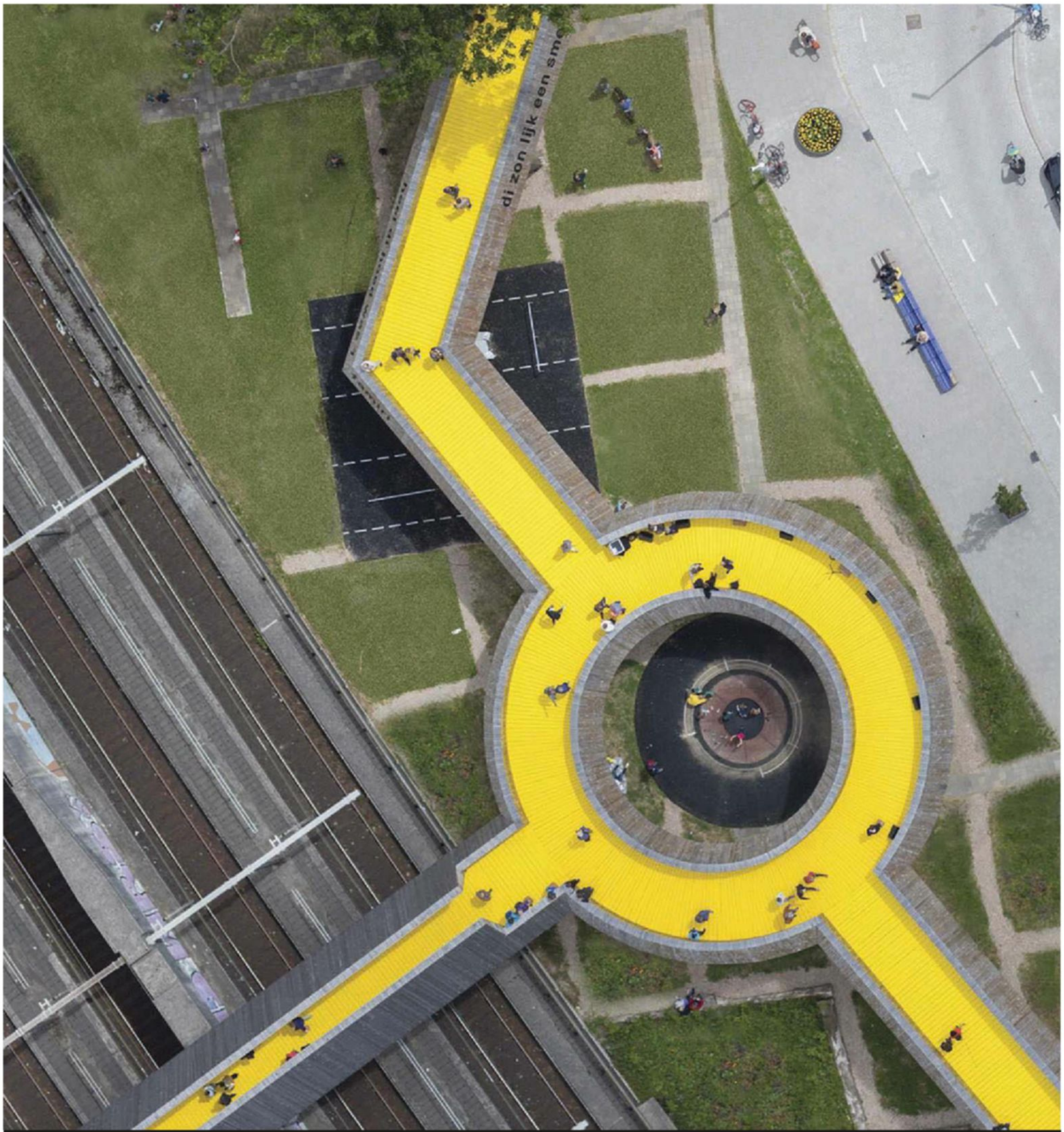


OSSIP VAN DUIVENBODE

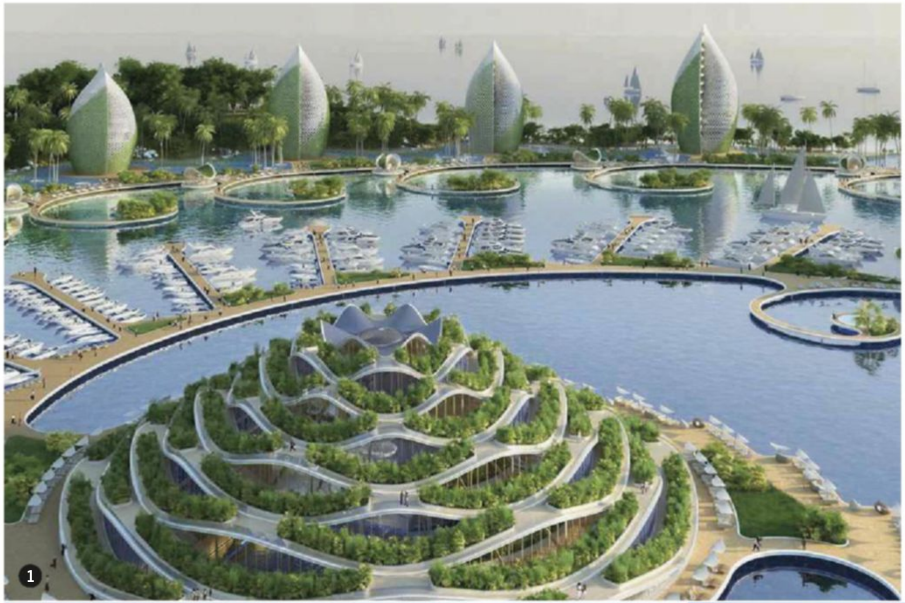
TOMORROW'S WORLD

A full-size model of a section of Luchtsingel, a pedestrian bridge above a public park in the Netherlands, is one of more than 100 objects on display at a new exhibition that opens at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London this month. *The Future Starts Here*, brings together everything from smart appliances to artificial intelligence to explore the power of design in shaping the world of tomorrow. This innovative, 380m-long, bright-yellow bridge links three previously disconnected parts of Rotterdam, with its three pathways converging at a circular viewing platform. Crowdfunders, whose names are etched into the timber sides, enabled the project by buying one of the 17,000 or so timber planks. 12 May – 4 November, **vam.ac.uk**

DESIGN

NEWS

COMPILED BY ANNIE GATTI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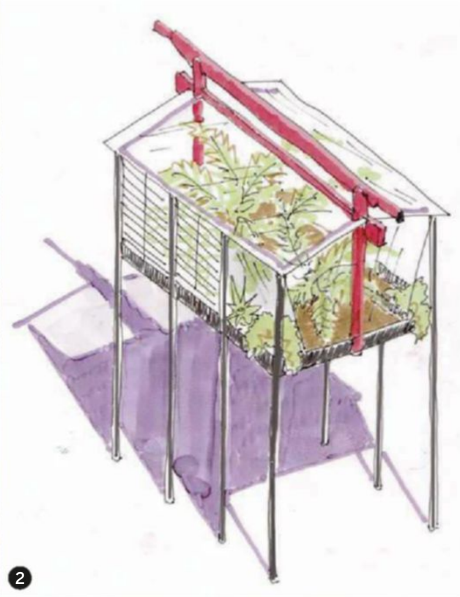
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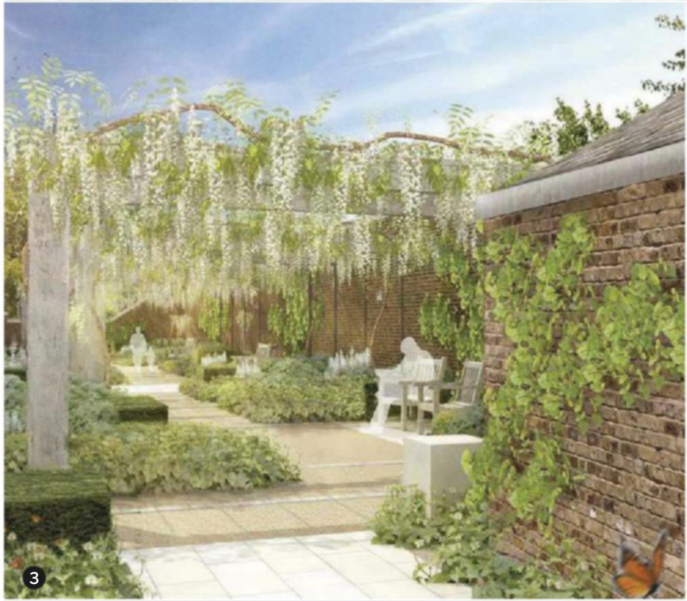
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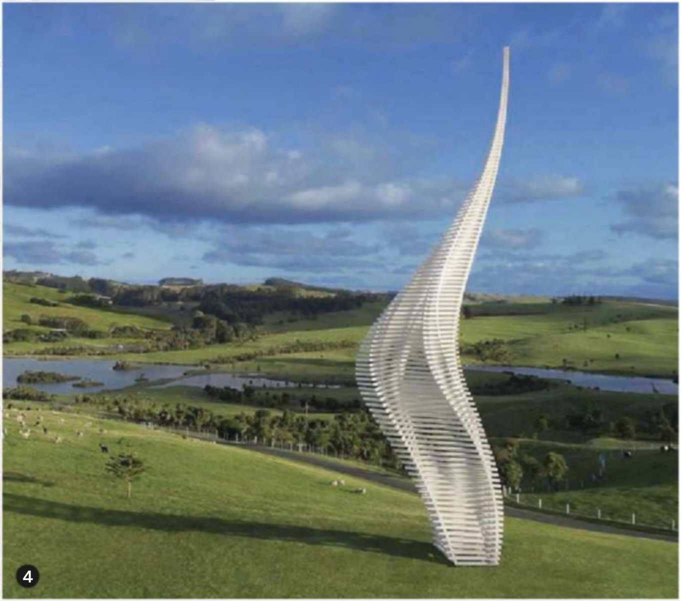
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① NAUTILUS ECO RESORT

Paris-based architectural practice Vincent Callebaut has revealed an ambitious and pioneering design for an eco resort in the Philippines that promises zero emissions and zero waste. The buildings, made from re-used materials, sit on telescopic piles that produce ocean thermal energy. Lines of snail-shaped hotels, and apartment towers, which rotate to catch the sun as it moves, form spirals around an island where a scientific research centre and nautical recreation base are located. Vegetable gardens and organic orchards create rooftop gardens. **vincent.callebaut.org**

② THE COLLECTORS GARDEN AT MALVERN

Bespoke terrariums, large enough to provide a mini indoor garden, will be one of the eye-catching elements of designer Olivia Kirk's The Collectors Garden at this month's RHS Malvern Spring Festival, The garden celebrates the modern cultivars of plants and shrubs collected by Victorian plant hunters. The original Wardian Case design has been given a Japanese feel, with external screens fitted with ricepaper backing to provide shading when it's needed. It's hoped that the terrariums will go into production with London Terrariums (londonterrariums.com) after the show. 10-13 May. **rhsmalvern.co.uk**

③ PERGOLA GARDEN

As part of his ongoing development of the gardens at the National Trust's Beningbrough Hall in Yorkshire, Andy Sturgeon has transformed a former service area into a tranquil, linear pergola garden. The oak pergola, which is clad in white *Wisteria floribunda* 'Alba', shades a series of intimate seating areas sheltered by a brick wall. These are separated by blocks of herbaceous perennials, shrubs and bulbs anchored by cubes of clipped yew. The restrained palette of greens and whites is interplanted with seasonal colour tones, from plants such as *Tulipa* 'Ronaldo', *Geranium* Rozanne (= 'Gerwat') and *Digitalis lutea*. **nationaltrust.org.uk**

④ NEW HOME FOR BRITISH SCULPTURE

Jacob's Ladder, a new monumental sculpture by British artist Gerry Judah, has been installed at Gibbs Farm in Kaipara Harbour, New Zealand. Sweeping elegantly skywards to a point 34m above the rolling headland, the sculpture is made from 480 lengths of steel tube, stacked one on top of the other. Each layer is slightly different in length and size, producing the final curving shape. Gibbs Farm, which holds works by some of the world's best-known sculptors including Anish Kapoor, Richard Serra and Andy Goldsworthy, is open by appointment only. **gibbsfarm.org.nz**

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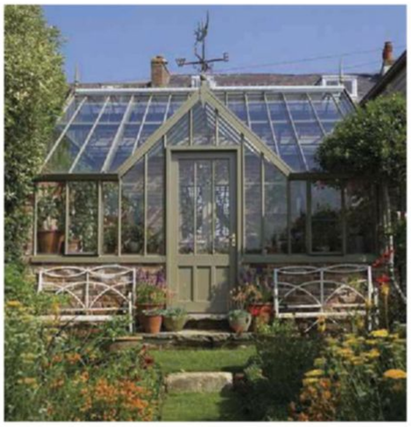

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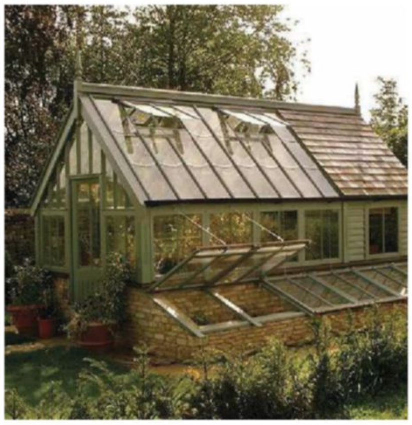

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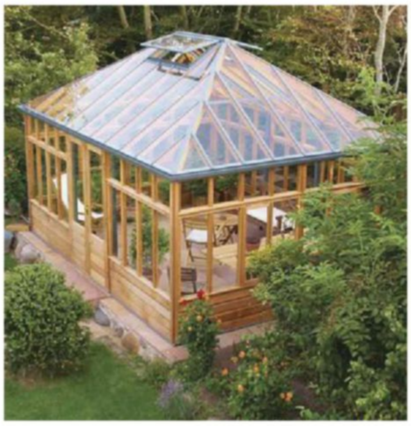

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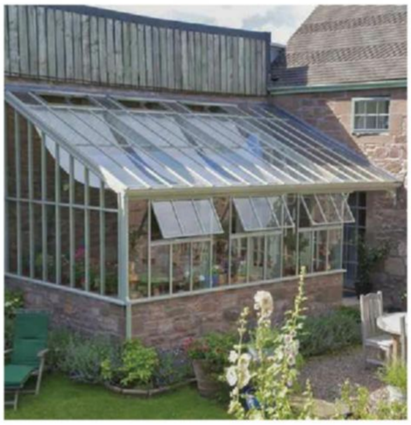

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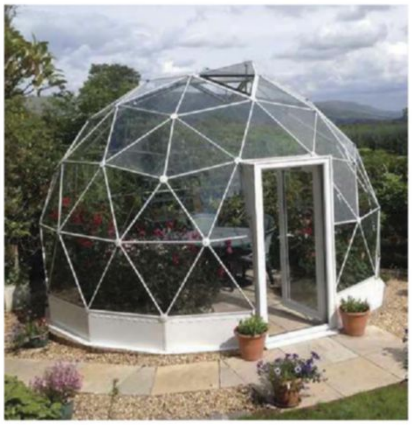

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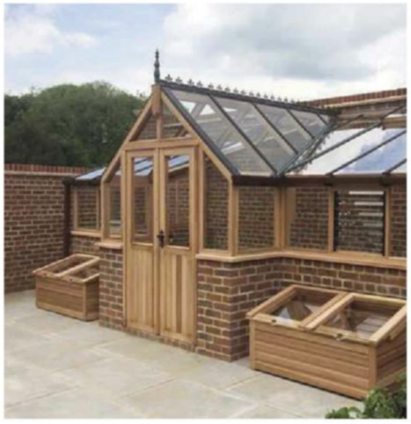

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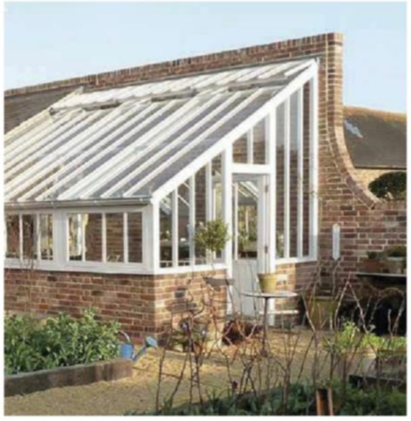

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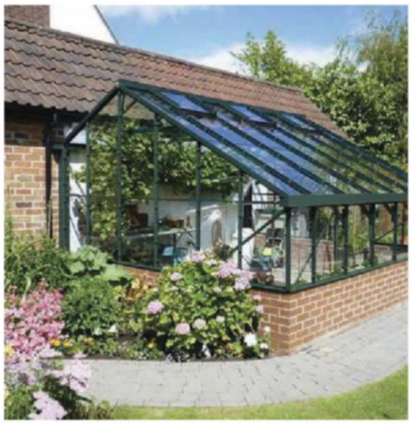
Guide price £18,000, White Cottage
01270 753826, whitecottage.co.uk



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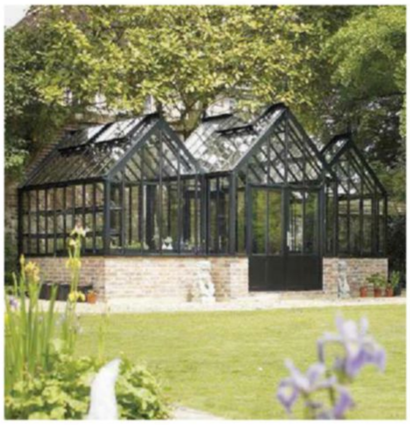

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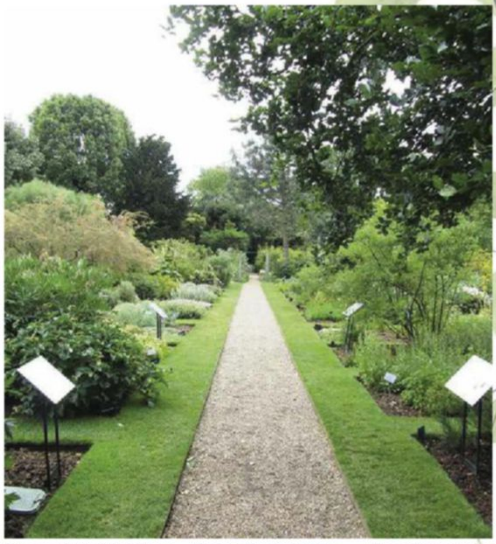

Garden of Medicinal Plants – Chelsea Physic Garden Photo: R Alexander

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DOWNTOOLS

Book reviews, competitions, reader offer, crossword, back issues

This flower wall created by florists Katie Smyth and Terri Chandler, authors of new book *Wreaths*, is an example of how the simplest ideas are often most effective. Read the review of their book on page 124.

KRISTIN PERERS

LAPADA

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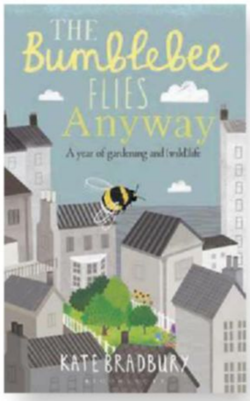
BOOK REVIEWS


THE Bumblebee FLIES Anyway
A year of gardening and (wild)life
KATE BRADBURY

THE BUMBLEBEE FLIES ANYWAY: A YEAR OF GARDENING AND (WILD)LIFE

by Kate Bradbury

Bloomsbury, £16.99
ISBN 978-1472943101

A deeply personal account of how nature can be a great healer and can bring a little joy into even the darkest of days.

Reviewer Alys Hurn is staff writer for Gardens Illustrated

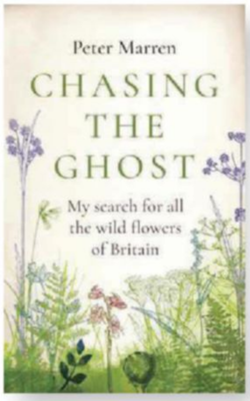
Author of *The Wildlife Gardener* and wildlife editor on BBC *Gardeners' World Magazine*, Kate Bradbury is passionate about conservation and protecting our native species. Her latest book, *The Bumblebee Flies Anyway* is an account of how moving to a flat in Brighton, with its unloved, tangle of a garden helped her to deal with heartbreak and suppressed grief, plus create a haven for wildlife in the midst of the city.

Set out over the course of a year, the book documents Bradbury's progress in the garden and her new life in Brighton: waking up before sunrise to catch the stunning murmurations of starlings off Brighton Pier and the excitement of discovering the eggs of leaf-cutter bees inside her bee hotel. She is desperate to create a safe space for as many different species of wildlife as she possibly can and does so by digging a pond, filling borders with protective planting and sowing a lawn full of dandelions.

Bradbury's thrifty solutions to bringing life back into a garden and her extensive gardening know-how quickly results in success but her achievements are overshadowed by Bradbury's despairing attitude to the larger task at hand and it can sometimes make you a little impatient with her.

Interspersed throughout the book are nostalgic memories of Bradbury's childhood home and the wild garden she grew up in. She fondly remembers her grandmother who first introduced her to a cuckoo's call and taught her the names of native hedgerow plants. It is clear that nature has always been a refuge for Bradbury.

Ultimately, this is an open account of how people and nature have an unfaltering desire to keep going, no matter how bad things get.



CHASING THE GHOST: MY SEARCH FOR ALL THE WILD FLOWERS IN BRITAIN

by Peter Marren

Square Peg, £16.99
ISBN 978-1910931110

This wonderful plant hunter's journal celebrates some of the most obscure and elusive British wildflowers.

Reviewer Hannah Gardner is a gardener and garden writer

A veteran ecologist and wildlife writer Peter Marren wears his considerable natural history learning lightly. His great narrative ability luring the reader into the gentle but untrendy subculture of field botany. The author muses… 'when did we lose our former intimacy with wildflowers?'

After a lifetime of botanising, logging some 1,400 native plants, Marren challenges himself to locate and record in a single growing season a flowering specimen of the 50 remaining plants he has unticked in his flora.

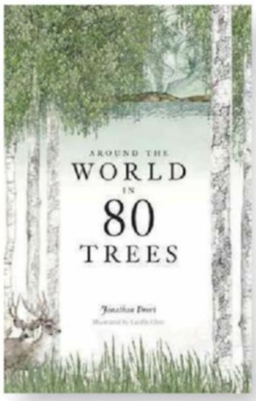
He is an unapologetic plant geek, one that effortlessly weaves illuminating facts, figures and astute observations through his text. I enjoyed these diversions and explorations of the bigger questions such as 'how does a plant get by without flowers…?'

Each section is headed by a drawing of a native plant, a morphological (structural) description, in addition to the location, date and who was present. Most of the illustrations are historic, highlighting the long history of field botany, others are recent sketches from the eminent naturalists that accompany him on many of his excursions.

As the summer extends into autumn, Marren's jocular storytelling is tinged with melancholy. Journeying north to traverse the wilds of the Highlands and Islands and 'tick' a few subarctic species, he has to confront the complexities of sudden ill health and the loss of a loved one.

This book would appeal to anyone with an enthusiasm for wildflowers or an interest in the history of natural history, As Marren's fellow enthusiast Martin observes 'Recording is a form of collecting… it's part the fun of the hunt, but it's more than that. Unlike the Victorians, I don't collect the plants, I collect the memory.'

BOOK REVIEWS



AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 TREES
by Jonathan Drori

Laurence King Publishing, £17.99
ISBN 978-1786271617

This book will appeal to anyone who would like to learn a little more about useful trees from all parts of the world.

Reviewer Tony Kirkham is head of the arboretum at Kew Gardens

When I first picked up this book, I was taken aback by the beautiful, and descriptive coloured illustrations used to bring this book to life. They are in an unique style, accurate and a work of art in their own right. Not that this was needed as the text is beautifully written and addictive reading. If you are a tree lover and are planning an around-the-world trip or merely staying at home and would like to learn more about trees with interesting facts about their relationship with our everyday lives, then this is the travel guide for you.

Starting in England looking at two familiar iconic hybrid trees – the London plane that makes up more than half of London's planted urban trees and the Leyland cypress, commonly planted as a hedging plant in the 1980s – the author takes readers eastwards in an anti-clockwise direction around the world. Across northern Europe, southern Europe, the Mediterranean, through all of the continents, including Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand, south and central America, finishing the tour in north America with the sugar maple, the source of the raw material for maple syrup.

The 80 trees are a clever and diverse representation of the 60,000 distinct tree species that can be found on our planet, all with inspiring, descriptive and true stories. Jonathan Drori brings out the science and economic importance of each example with the social impact that they have had on our history and present-day life, bringing these trees alive to the reader.

Trees play such an important part of our everyday life and this book will certainly whet the appetite to travel and see these 80 trees in their countries of origin or to stay at home and see them growing in a botanic garden.

WREATHS: FRESH FORAGED & DRIED FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS
by Katie Smyth and Terri Chandler

Quadrille, £14.99
ISBN 978-1787131200

Insider secrets on creating floral arrangements in your home with fresh and dried flowers, leaves and stems.

Reviewer Rosanna Morris is a freelance writer

Never has dried honesty been so cool. Nor has crafting with natural materials. Cue the book *Wreaths*. Not just for Christmas, or doors, and no longer limited to spruce and cinnamon sticks, wreaths are having a moment; be they explosive asymmetrical summer arrangements billowing with cotoneaster foliage and cosmos or something organic for autumn featuring preserved beech leaves and poppy pods.

Authors Katie Smyth and Terri Chandler of WORM London, who run a trendy flower studio, picked up ideas from different cultures as they travelled the world and show us how to create the spectacular looks by sharing their secrets.

In what looks like something straight from a hipster Instagram feed, the book is split into fresh, foraged, dried and festive projects detailing the equipment and plants needed, with a particular focus on flowers from the garden. Projects vary in complexity, ranging from taping dried lavender, ferns and achillea to walls with great effect, to a full-blown meadow ball using hanging baskets, floral foam and plentiful flowers and foliage. The instructions are easy to follow and the tone is friendly and accessible, right down to the practicalities of soaking floral foam correctly.

This is a book for people who love having flowers in their home but might want to try something a bit different to traditional floristry and rethink how to use flowers in a more artful form. The beautiful photography by Kristin Perers and the step-by-step guides, as well as the fresh layout of text and imagery, is endlessly inspiring. Worth every penny of the £14.99 price, it will have you reaching for a linen smock and Swedish clogs – and planting *Lunaria annua*.

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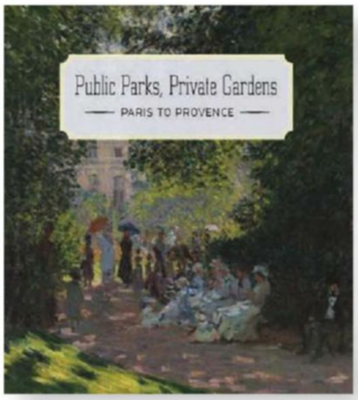
BOOK REVIEWS



PUBLIC PARKS, PRIVATE GARDENS: PARIS TO PROVENCE
by Colta Ives

Yale University Press, £40
ISBN 978-1588395849

Companion volume to an exhibition at the Met in New York, focused on the 19th-century development of Paris's public parks and squares.

Reviewer Tim Richardson is a garden critic and regular columnist

Ignore the dull title – this book makes one understand just how important parks and gardens came to be to several generations of French artists during the second half of the 19th century. The stars of the show, inevitably, are the likes of Monet, Manet, Renoir and Degas, but – gratifyingly – the author spends just as much time on lesser-known figures.

The longest and most original section of the book is effectively a commentary on the redevelopment of Paris by Baron Haussmann in the mid 19th century (three new parks, 24 squares and miles of tree-lined boulevards) and how contemporary artists reacted to it. One of the most memorable paintings is a Parisian street scene by Gustave Caillebotte – viewed from directly above, through the branches of a tree.

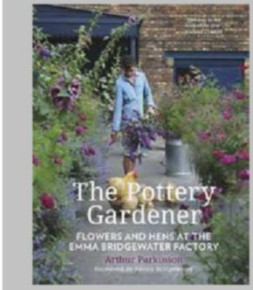
Caillebotte, a close friend of Monet's, was an expert gardener with a mania for chrysanths whose work betrays all the instincts of an observant practical gardener. The work of American painter Mary Cassatt is also shown to fine effect – her study of lilacs seems to live and breathe – while it is also good to see the sumptuous floral still lifes of Henri Fantin-Latour given their due.

It is also interesting to come across the work of early photographers such as Gustave Le Gray, who in the 1850s and 1860s produced images of the Forest of Fontainebleau. These complement the paintings of the Barbizon School, whose *en plein air* techniques so impressed the Impressionists.

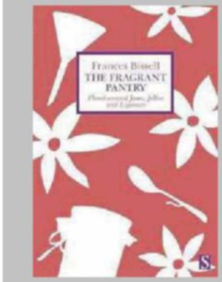
While Paris dominates the narrative, there are exceptions, such as the discussion of Van Gogh's interest in the new public garden at Arles, which he painted repeatedly. He used the canvases to decorate his friend Gaugin's room when he came to visit – though as we know, that particular episode did not end well.

Other books

Five new titles covering edible flowers, botanical photography, houseplants and the garden at the Emma Bridgewater factory.



THE POTTERY GARDENER
by Arthur Parkinson
The History Press, £25
ISBN 978-0750985574
How the walled garden at the Emma Bridgewater pottery came to be, plus tips on gardening, keeping fowl and flower-arranging.



THE FRAGRANT PANTRY
by Frances Bissell
Serif Books, £11.99
ISBN 978-1682190944
Part of a trilogy on floral cooking, this recipe book shows how flowers can be used in everyday cooking to add flavour and scent to a range of dishes.

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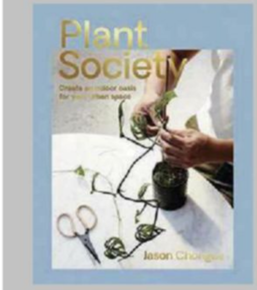
LISA SCHNEIDAU

BOTANICAL FOLK TALES OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND
by Lisa Schneidau
The History Press, £9.99
ISBN 978-0750981217
A collection of stories exploring the common folklore surrounding Britain's and Ireland's trees and plants.



PLANT SOCIETY: CREATE AN INDOOR OASIS FOR YOUR URBAN SPACE
by Jason Chongue
Hardie Grant Books, £15
ISBN 978-1743793435
A guide to indoor gardening, covering plant care, styling tips and plant selection.

BOTANICAL
by Samuel Zeller
Hoxton Mini Press, £16.95
ISBN 978-1910566336
Zeller's impressionist-style photos reveal the beauty of exotic plants when seen through the glass of greenhouses across Europe.

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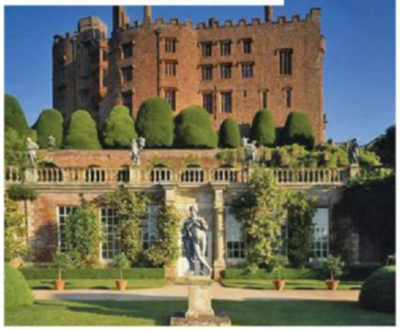

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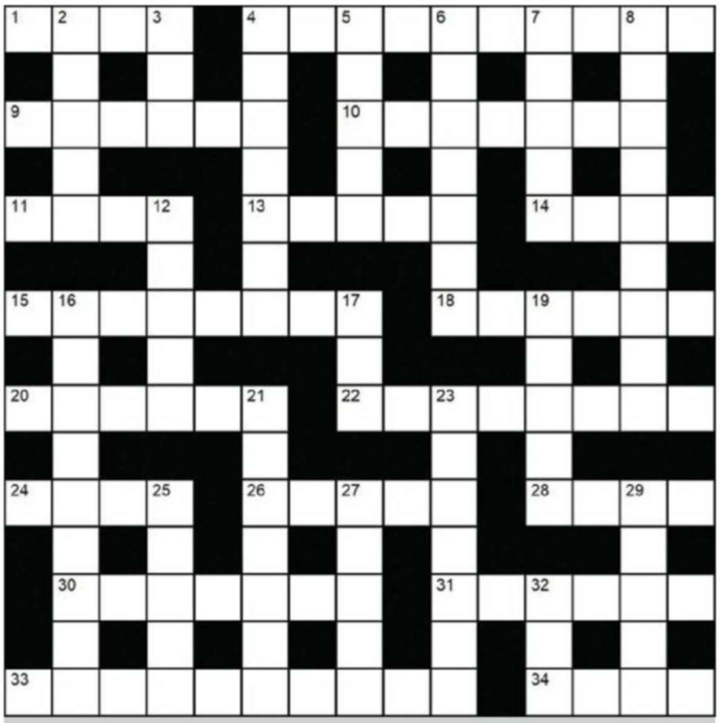
Crossword



ACROSS
1 Flower stalk element of Wakehurst embothrium (4)
4 Prickly shrub with tomato-like hips – or saguaros maybe! (4,6)
9 Ad spoilt with pics showing sap-sucking bug (6)
10 Fibrous grass *Stipa tenacissima* destroyed proteas (7)
11 Break an antirrhinum, in short (4)
13 Variegated thyme – arranged as art (5)
14 Pitcher in Inverewe rockery (4)
15 A cold associated with each reduced milfoil (8)
18 We sort out containers for vertical planting (6)
20 Wagered it's how plants may be supported (6)
22 Sizeable gratuities for *Lonicera* '__ __', with compact new growth (4,4)
24 Garden designer Jinny removing centre from flower (4)
26 Part of a calyx – in glasshouse palm (5)
28 Sumach plant – cultivated rush (4)
30 Genus of sundew from grafted rose (rambler) (7)
31 *Cytisus* shrubs, useful to witches? (6)
33 Hank unties damaged plant with small bell-shaped flowers (10)
34 Trial a Hampshire chalk stream (4)

DOWN
2 Grow a plant up a wall, say, given time and wet weather (5)
3 Species of *Cornus* – mother's in brief (3)
4 Description of plant growing in wasteland: "rue mixed with lard" (7)
5 Potential plants – possibly held in a bank at Kew (5)
6 Eg dig out and put shrub in new position (7)
7 Thorny shrub, genus *Ulex* – good sort of rose (5)
8 Sedum plant's dreadful poor scent! (9)
12/32 down Transfer seedlings into individual containers (5,3)
16 Seed leaf's cold, yet no different (9)
17 Alan Titchmarsh conceals an insect (3)
19 An important element in a Japanese-style garden (5)
21 Had seen unusual, edible tropical tuber, *Colocasia* genus (7)
23 Coppelia composer's large cupped narcissus (7)
25 Name of a *Phormium* group – indigenous to New Zealand (5)
27 Velvet-skinned stone fruit – penny, every single one! (5)
29 The elm genus (5)
32 See 12 down

SOLUTIONS TO THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD WILL BE PRINTED NEXT MONTH

APRIL 2018 SOLUTIONS

ACROSS 4 Dieback **9** Corm **10** Hardy **11** Worm **12** Gentian **14** Unripe **15** Tamus **16** Echinops **18** Woodrush **20** Bushy **21** Anchor **23** Rhubarb **25** Reed **26/1** Great Pagoda **27** Lulu **28** Siesta **29** Strips.

DOWN 1 Prong **2** Gum **3** Dahlias **5** Ivy bush **6** Bower **7** Corn poppy **8** Prince Charles **13** Nomad **15** Thornless **17** Nyssa **19** Upright **20** Blue tit **22** Hedge **24** Bulbs **27** Lei.

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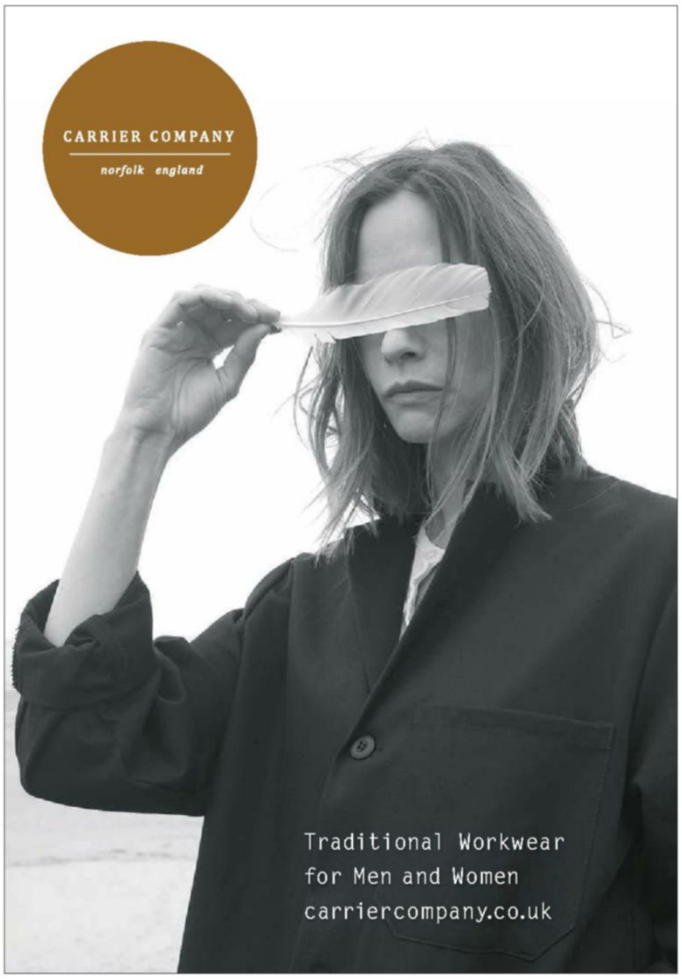

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Chelsea Flower Show 2018

Get inspiration on design and planting at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. Meet experts and browse some of the best garden accessories.

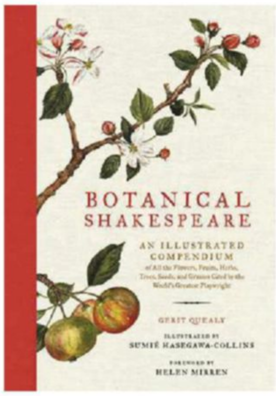
SHAKESPEARE IN THE WILD

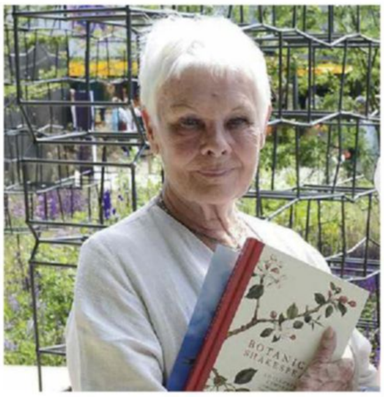
STAND #AR-544

It's a year since the publication of *Botanical Shakespeare: An Illustrated Compendium of All the Flowers, Fruits, Herbs, Trees, Seeds and Grasses Cited by the World's Greatest Playwright* so what better way to celebrate our book's anniversary than to feature it at the Chelsea Flower Show. Japanese artist Sumié Hasegawa's elegant illustrations of more than 170 plants and flowers alongside the Bard's words, replete with fresh insights and discoveries, seemed ideally suited to the sylvan setting. Last year someone managed to give Dame Judi Dench a copy of the book at the Wellington College exhibit and to our delight, it was later spotted in her BBC-TV programme, *My Passion for Trees*, where she is seen using it in a quotation quiz with her partner.

At this year's Chelsea we want to embrace the inspiration of the showground even in a small stand, bringing *Botanical Shakespeare* to life in a unique way that we call forest bathing! With the help of John Moolenschot of Cineco, a cluster of trees will allow for an immersive experience of Shakespeare's flora, with an opportunity to hear the surrounding plant life whispering history, echoing plots and poetry, with every step and scent. Explore the secrets of our lyrical grove, where we highlight Shakespeare's flower celebrating the Chelsea pensioners, and a resplendent Queen Elizabeth I, who ignited the country's passion for gardening.

botanicalshakespeare.com





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CHILSTONE CLASSICAL
STAND # PW/607

In 2017, we were delighted with the double honour of winning a 5 star award for our stand and becoming finalists for the RHS Product of the Year with our marble resin contemporary statue, *Leda and the Swan*. This year Chilstone are back at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show celebrating our 65th anniversary. Our stand will feature our classically elegant Kew fountain as the centrepiece of our compact, courtyard-style garden. This versatile piece works in gardens of all sizes as a beautiful water feature. The planting scheme of whites and purples with alliums, phlox and lupins, supplied by How Green Nursery, will celebrate our company colours and complement our stone garden ornament pieces. All our stonework is handmade in Kent.

This year we will also display our architectural stonework, with our classic door surrounds. Our team are experts at restoring damaged or crumbling period features for homes and gardens, accentuating fine details by hand for a quality finish. We also blend extensions with existing buildings. With 65 years of expertise and a wide range of clients, from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to Kensington Palace and Hever Castle, we can help you find bespoke solutions for your projects and provide free CAD drawings.

01892 740866
chilstone.com

WEDGWOOD
LOCATION # ROCK GARDEN BANK

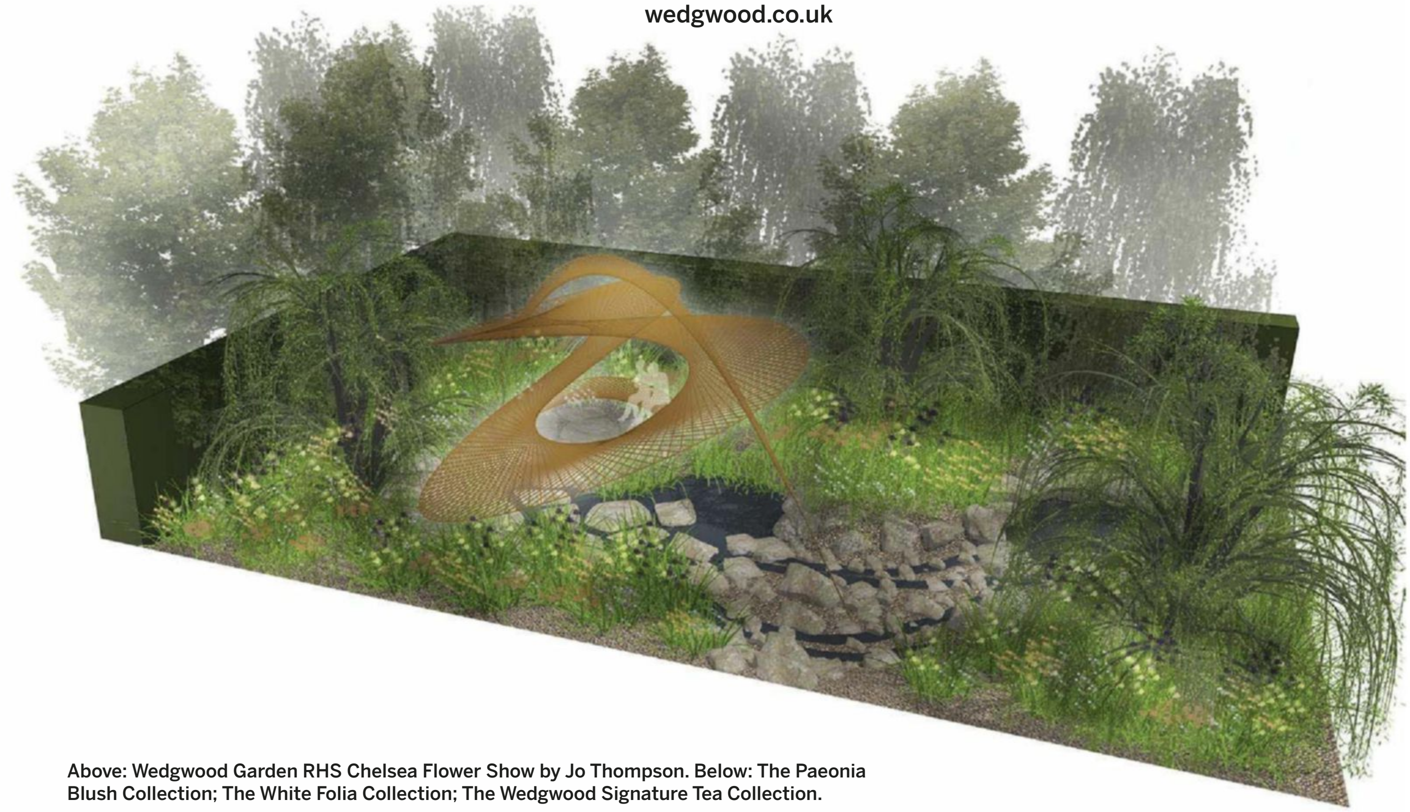
Wedgwood's Inaugural Garden RHS Chelsea Flower Show and the return of The Wedgwood Tea Conservatory

Wedgwood continues its celebration of joint heritage with the Royal Horticultural Society, with the founding of the RHS by John Wedgwood; Josiah Wedgwood's son in 1804. Appearing across three flower shows, Wedgwood will be launching its key collections under the heading "Bringing Nature into the Home."

Multi-award-winning UK designer, Jo Thompson, will create a striking space for a strong, successful woman for 2018's Wedgwood Garden. Nature, flowers and horticulture have always been at the heart of Wedgwood's design work and this has been the source of inspiration for Jo's garden.

The Wedgwood Tea Conservatory returns to RHS Chelsea Flower Show with a focus on the Wedgwood Signature Tea Collection with Wedgwood's Global Tea Curator Bernadine Tay. Celebrating Wedgwood's 360 experience, visitors will be given an alternative view to the Wedgwood Garden from the conservatory while enjoying re-blended classics, such as Wedgwood Earl Grey and Wedgwood Original. Wedgwood's new collections from floral teaware Paeonia and interior ceramics, Folia, re-imagined Jasperware with the Wedgwood Blue Pebble Collection and the Wedgwood Burlington Pot. Wedgwood is also the Headline Partner at the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show with a Garden Installation *Emergence* by sculptor Carl Hardman and Steve Porter Chatsworth's, Head Gardener, The Wedgwood Tea Conservatory returns to both RHS Chatsworth Flower Show and RHS Flower Show Tatton Park.

01782 282651
wedgwood.co.uk



Above: Wedgwood Garden RHS Chelsea Flower Show by Jo Thompson. Below: The Paeonia Blush Collection; The White Folia Collection; The Wedgwood Signature Tea Collection.

THE LAURA WALLACE COLLECTION

STAND # EA476

Laura Wallace is an accomplished artist who has had many solo exhibitions in London, Scotland and in her home county of Yorkshire.

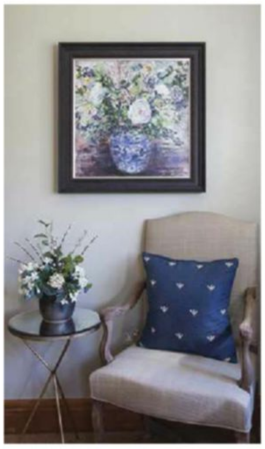
Working predominantly in oil, her bold use of colour and generous application of paint make for a distinctive style that allows her to capture a variety of subjects, which comprise dramatic landscapes, seascapes and colourful still lifes.

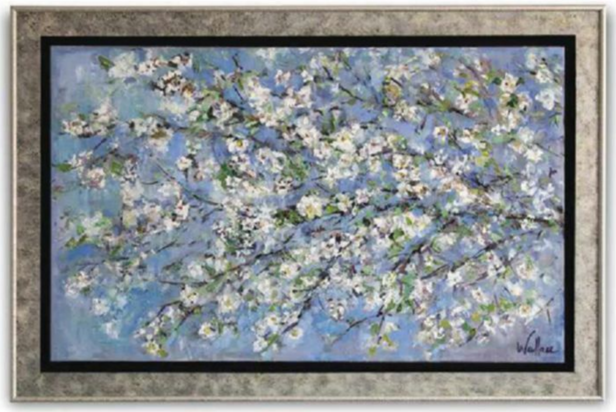
"My great passion when it comes to subjects to paint is flowers. I adore the form and colour of different varieties and find the challenge of translating their vibrancy and delicate beauty into a piece of art hugely rewarding".

Laura is hugely excited to launch her new range of beautiful canvas prints at this Chelsea Flower Show 2018. These stunning pictures are produced on a high quality linen canvas and then hand finished with an acrylic glaze that gives the impression of genuine brush strokes. We then take great effort on finding the perfect frame to compliment the image.

Created by an Artisan Picture Framer in her nearby town of Harrogate, we feel these pictures are unique as they bridge the gap between an original and a print. They are wonderful, individual pieces of art that no one can believe are not original oil paintings.

laurawallace.co.uk





GRIFFIN GLASSHOUSES
STAND # RHW 611

Each Griffin glasshouse is individually created for you and tailored to your individual requirements and unique surroundings, both a pleasure to use and are an enhancing feature to your property. The exclusive NGS collection now features seven popular designs, made from maintenance-free aluminium and finished in a colour of your choice. Come and see the launch of our new NGS Glasshouse at this year's Chelsea Flower Show.

01962 772 512
griffinglasshouses.com

PLANT BELLES
STAND # AR539

These grow-through wire frames are designed to be both functional and beautiful, offering year-round interest in the border. The elegant structures look great dusted in frost, and as winter subsides Plant Belles protect the emerging young spring growth, before providing much-needed support as plants reach the heady heights of summer. Used in National Trust and RHS gardens (Sidney Belle pictured here at RHS Rosemoor), designed and handcrafted in the UK.

01363 84514
plantbelleshop.co.uk

PLANKBRIDGE – MAKERS OF FINE HUTS
STAND # AR 586

Plankbridge huts are built to last for generations: sumptuous living, working and recreation spaces for year-round comfort. Extend your home with a spare room, teenage den or garden office, usually without the need for planning permission. And then take it with you if you move house. On display will be a 14-foot home office hut with covered deck, fumed English oak windows and door, and a very special exterior cladding.

01300 348414
plankbridge.com

MICHAEL MICHAUD JEWELLERY
STAND # EA433

Renowned botanical jewellery designer Michael Michaud has launched the 'Forget Me Not' collection for Spring/Summer 2018 and will be showcased at the Chelsea Flower Show this Spring. Each piece is beautifully crafted by creating a mould directly from the botanical element to capture the beauty and natural detail. Hand-finished in bronze with white freshwater pearls and blue glass flowers to accent and enhance its beauty.

01904 470913
michael-michaud.com

NUTSCENE (1922) LTD
STAND # E413

Since 1922 Nutscene has been providing the world with the finest jute twines and ancillary garden products. Award-winning and widely recognisable lines, such as the 'Tin 'o' Twine', demonstrate the innovations that Nutscene continually explore. Nutscene is a mainstay within the gardening world, frequently appearing at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Come and visit Nutscene at Chelsea 2018, stand E413 to view our full portfolio of products!

01307 468589
nutscene.com

NUTSCENE 1922

SQUAREROOT PLANTERS
STAND #3, ROCK GARDEN BANK

Squareroot Planters designs and manufactures an inspiring range of aluminium planters to complement garden and architectural styles worldwide. The strength and longevity of each planter is the result of a solid aluminium structure meticulously engineered to exacting standards. All Squareroot planters are made to order so styles and sizes can be tailored to specific requirements. Handcrafted without compromise, made in England.

01787 312068
squarerootplanters.com

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READER COMPETITIONS

To mark our 25th year, we've got lots of special offers and giveaways, including these two special competitions that could see you visit some of the season's finest garden shows as VIP guests

Win VIP tickets to RHS Chatsworth Flower Show, an exclusive tour and overnight stay

CHATSWORTH ESTATE, PAUL HERVEY-BROOKES

Wealth manager Brewin Dolphin is offering three readers the chance to win a pair of tickets each to the 2018 RHS Chatsworth Flower Show on Wednesday 6 June.

This is RHS Chatsworth Flower Show's second year. Taking place once again in the picturesque grounds of Chatsworth House in Derbyshire's Peak District, the show will feature a spectacular line-up of gardens, planting displays and floral exhibits, including the Brewin Dolphin garden designed, this year, by multi-award winning designer Paul Hervey-Brookes.

Inspired by an 18th-century village that once stood in the shadow of Chatsworth House before being moved to make way for 'Capability' Brown's famous landscape, the Brewin Dolphin garden will feature a sculptural timber pavilion, echoing the lost houses of the village, surrounded by dense borders of colourful planting.

Plants native to the region that would have been used as medicines and food crops at the time the village existed, will combine with decorative varieties and two majestic copper beech trees to create a stunning display. Also featured will be eight specialist herbs grown exclusively for the show, by herb expert Jekka McVicar.

Paul Hervey-Brookes is one of the UK's leading garden designers renowned for creating classically English landscapes and gardens. He has been creating show gardens for over ten years, winning Gold, Best in Show and Best Construction at RHS Chatsworth 2017. He has also won a series of awards at RHS Chelsea and RHS Hampton Court Palace.

RHS Chatsworth is the flagship event in Brewin Dolphin's 2018 annual programme of gardening events. **gardening.brewin.co.uk**

ENTER OUR COMPETITION

Readers have the chance to win one of three pairs of tickets each to the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show on Wednesday 6 June. The prize also includes an exclusive private tour of the Brewin Dolphin Garden with award-winning designer Paul Hervey-Brookes and overnight accommodation on 6 June with dinner and breakfast at the Ringwood Hall Hotel and Spa in nearby Brimington (**ringwoodhallhotel.com**), VIP hospitality on the Brewin Dolphin garden and tickets to visit Chatsworth House.

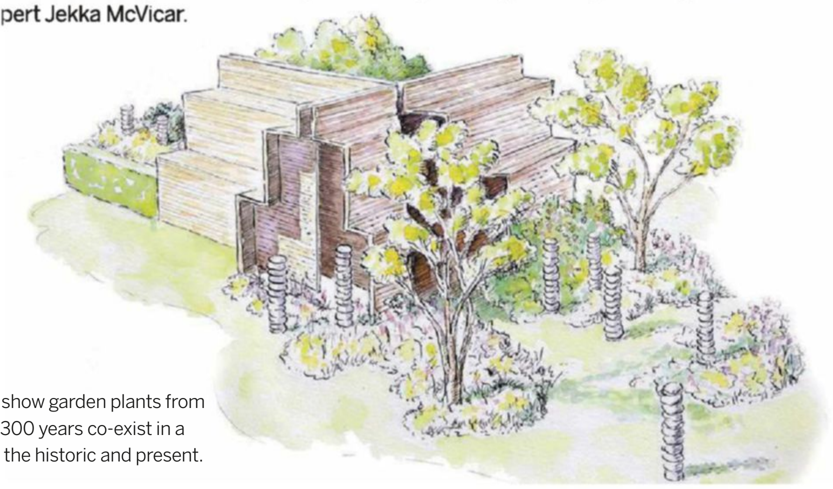
HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win, answer the following question.

What was 'Capability' Brown's first name?

A Lawrence **B** Lionel **C** Lancelot

Enter by post Send your answer along with your name, address, telephone number and/or email to:
Gardens Illustrated 260/Chatsworth,
PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA.
Enter online at gardensillustrated.com
Closing date 16 May 2018.



In Paul's show garden plants from the past 300 years co-exist in a fusing of the historic and present.

COMPETITION TERMS & CONDITIONS
1 The Promoter is Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited. **2** The promotion is open to all residents of the UK, including the Channel Islands, aged 18 years or older, except the Promoter's employees or contractors and anyone connected with the promotion or their direct family members. **3** By entering the promotion, the participants agree: (a) to be bound by these terms and conditions; (b) that their surname and county of residence may be released if they win a prize; and (c) that should they win the promotion, their name and likeness may be used by the Promoter for pre-arranged promotional purposes. **4** Entries received after the closing date of the promotion will not be considered. **5** Entrants must supply to Immediate Media Company Limited their full name, email address and daytime telephone number. The Promoter will use entrants' personal details in accordance with the Immediate Privacy Policy (www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy).**6** Only one entry will be permitted per person, regardless of method of entry. Bulk entries made by third parties will not be permitted. **7** The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random from all the correct entries after the closing date. The Promoter's decision as to the winner is final and no correspondence relating to the promotion will be entered into. The Promoter may share the details of the winners with the prize provider for the purposes of fulfilling the prizes. **8** The winners will be notified within 5 days of the close of the promotion by email. If the winner cannot be contacted, or fails to respond within 10 days of such notification being sent, the Promoter reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner up, or to re-offer the prize in any future promotion. **9** There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Prizes must be taken as stated and cannot be deferred. The Promoter reserves the right to substitute the prize with one of the same or greater value. **10** The name and county of residence of the winners will be available by sending an SAE to *Gardens Illustrated* at Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN within two months of the closing date of the promotion. **11** The Promoter reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the promotion at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. **12** The Promoter does not accept any responsibility for lost, delayed

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
25
YEARS
GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

This image The magnificent setting for the Blenheim Palace Flower Show.

Below One of the cosy rooms at The Killingworth Castle.

Win VIP tickets to the Blenheim Palace Flower Show, along with afternoon tea with Carol Klein and an overnight stay at The Killingworth Castle inn

We've teamed up with Blenheim Palace to offer you the chance to win VIP tickets to the opening day of the Blenheim Palace Flower Show on Friday 22 June 2018.

Now in its sixth year the Blenheim Palace Flower Show houses over 300 exhibitions, located around a Grand Floral Pavilion, which is situated on the South Lawn of the magnificent palace, the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill.

Along with the show gardens and opportunity to buy garden accessories, a highlight for the 2018 show will be the new 'Orchid Tunnel', which leads into the Pavilion. Visitors will be able to walk through the tunnel and see orchids from all over the world, before entering The Grand Floral Pavilion, filled with the UK's finest nurseries and growers. It's guaranteed to be a riot of colour and fragrance.

For more information about the show visit **blenheimflowershow.co.uk**

ENTER OUR COMPETITION

Readers have the chance to win a pair of exclusive VIP tickets to the opening day of the Blenheim Palace Flower Show on Friday 22 June. As part of the prize you'll also enjoy Afternoon Tea with much-loved television personality Carol Klein, which will be served in the magnificent Orangery Restaurant, and overnight accommodation on 22 June with dinner and breakfast at The Killingworth Castle nearby. This recently refurbished, AA rosette-awarded, foodie pub with eight individually styled, boutique bedrooms is the perfect base for exploring the region. Following your visit to the show, you will make your way to The Killingworth Castle where there will be a complimentary sherry and a warm welcome waiting for you. There's a cosy bar, romantic dining room, large beer garden and craft ales from its nearby sister pub, The Ebrington Arms.
thekillingworthcastle.com

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win, answer the following question.
John Churchill was Blenheim's first Duke. What was his title?
A 1st Duke of Marlborough **B** 1st Duke of Blenheim **C** 1st Duke of Oxford

Enter by post Send your answer along with your name, address, telephone number and/or email to:
Gardens Illustrated 260/Blenheim,
PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA.
Enter online at gardensillustrated.com
Closing date 20 May 2018.

or fraudulent entries. **13** The Promoter excludes liability to the full extent permitted by law for any loss, damage or injury occurring to the participant arising from his or her entry into the promotion or occurring to the winners arising from his or her acceptance of a prize. **14** The promotion is subject to the laws of England. **15** *Gardens Illustrated* (published by Immediate Media Company Ltd) would love to send you newsletters, together with special offers, and other promotions. If you would like to receive these please write 'YES GI INFO' on your entry.

CHATSWORTH TERMS & CONDITIONS
1 Closing date 16 May 2018, 12.01pm. **2** Three winners will win a pair of tickets for RHS Chatsworth on 6 June 2018, a tour of Brewin Dolphin garden, overnight accommodation, including dinner and breakfast at Ringwood Hall Hotel and Spa on 6 June 2018, and tickets to Chatsworth House. **3** Prize does not include transport to and from the show or hotel, or any additional expenses incurred. **4** Brewin Dolphin would like to send you information of their products. If you would like to receive these please write 'YES BREWIN DOLPHIN INFO' on your entry.

BLENHEIM TERMS & CONDITIONS
1 Closing date 20 May 2018, 12.01pm. **2** One winner will win a pair of tickets to the Opening Day of Blenheim Palace Flower show on Friday 22 June 2018. Afternoon Tea with Carol Klein subject to Carol Klein time schedule. **3** Prize tickets must be presented on arrival at Blenheim Palace. Prize tickets are for a standard Palace, Park and Garden visit only. **4** The prize pass tickets will expire on 22 June 2018, but can be converted on the day to a FREE Annual Pass allowing entry for up to 12 months from conversion. **5** Entry to externally organised events is not included in an Annual Pass. Visit www.blenheimpalace.com for more information and opening times. **6** Your break at The Killingworth Castle is for Friday 22 June 2018 only. **7** Beverages and additional menu supplements are not included with dinner. Any additional expenses incurred must be paid for on departure of the bar. **8** Travel costs are not included with any element of the prize. **9** Blenheim Palace would like to send you information of their news, events and offers. If you would like to receive these please write 'YES BLENHEIM INFO' on your entry.

READER OFFER

Plant collections from Woottens of Wenhaston

There's still time to sort out your spring planting now to ensure a colourful display later in the year. Award-winning nursery Woottens of Wenhaston offers a great range of perennials including a good selection of *Iris sibirica* and *Hemerocallis*. Here are two collections put together especially for *Gardens Illustrated* readers.

Iris sibirica are clump-forming perennials flowering in early summer. Best grown in a moist soil in sun or partial shade.

Hemerocallis (also known as daylilies) are popular for their burst of rich, summer colour from their trumpet-like blooms. Foliage of some forms is evergreen. Grow in full sun, in well-drained, fertile soil.

OFFER

Make your choice from the collection options shown on the right. Plants will be supplied in strong bareroot clumps with detailed care instructions. Prices include postage and packaging.

HOW TO ORDER

- **By phone** 01502 478258, quoting the code for the collection(s) you would like.

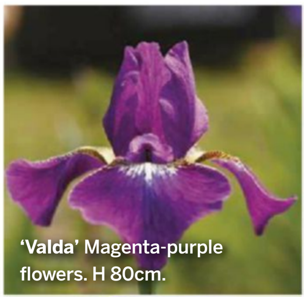
- **Online** at woottensplants.com. Click on the Special Offers tab to find these options.

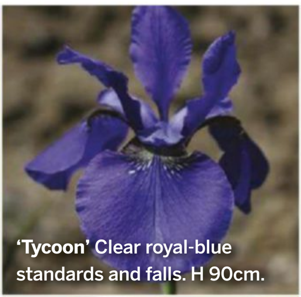
- **By post** please include details of the collection you would like, your name and address, telephone or email and a cheque made payable to Irises & Pelargoniums Ltd. Send your order to: Woottens of Wenhaston, The Iris Field, Hall Road, Wenhaston, Suffolk IP19 9HF.

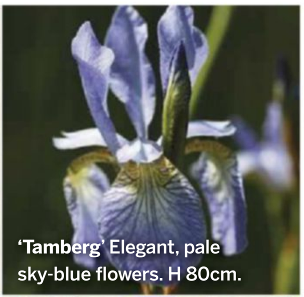
Please note *Iris* offer closes 31 May 2018, or while stocks last. *Hemerocallis* offer closes 30 June 2018, or while stocks last. Offer available to mainland UK only. Email or call the nursery for EU delivery costs. Varieties may be substituted depending on availability.

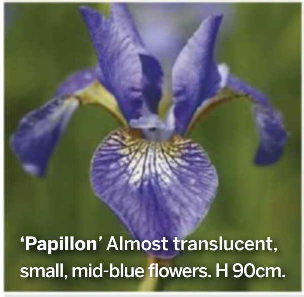
- **Woottens' hemerocallis fields are open for viewing the first two weekends in July allowing you to wander at leisure an acre of blooming daylilies. Free entry. Donations to NGS. Details at woottensplants.com**

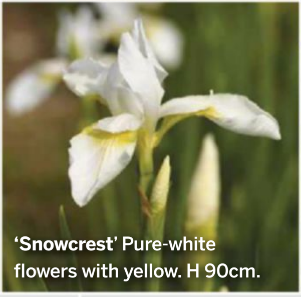
IRIS SIBIRICA

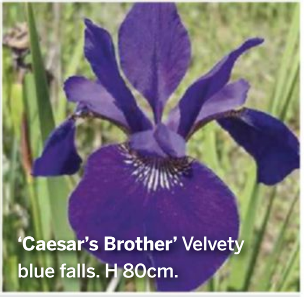

'Valda' Magenta-purple flowers. H 80cm.


'Tycoon' Clear royal-blue standards and falls. H 90cm.


'Tamberg' Elegant, pale sky-blue flowers. H 80cm.


'Papillon' Almost translucent, small, mid-blue flowers. H 90cm.


'Snowcrest' Pure-white flowers with yellow. H 90cm.


'Caesar's Brother' Velvety blue falls. H 80cm.

OFFER NO. 1 [IRISSIB01]

Three bareroot plants

'Valda'
'Tycoon'
'Tamberg'

£12.50
inc p&p

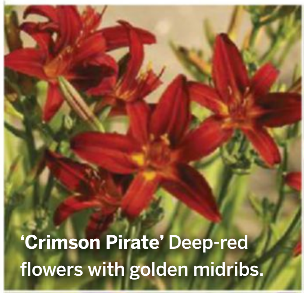
OFFER NO. 2 [IRISSIB02]

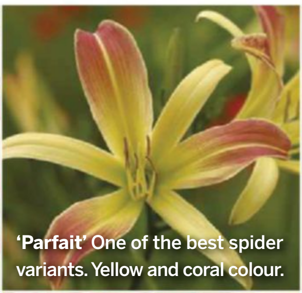
Six bareroot plants

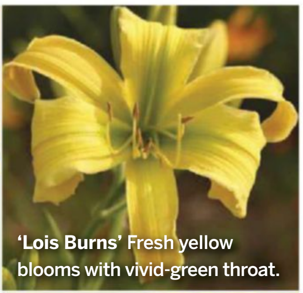
'Valda'
'Tycoon'
'Tamberg'
'Papillon'
'Snowcrest'
'Caesar's Brother'

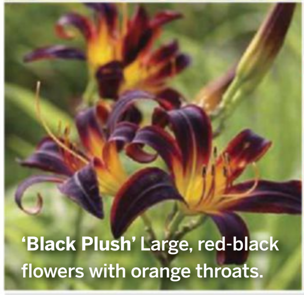
£20
inc p&p

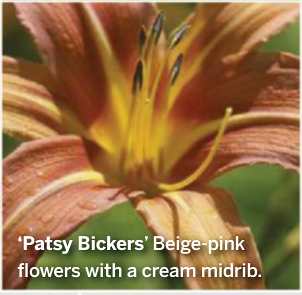
HEMEROCALLIS ELEGANT SPIDERS AND UNUSUAL FORMS

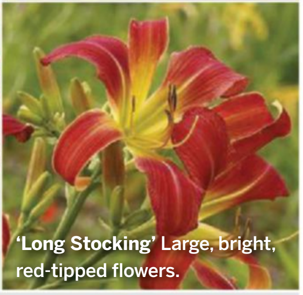

'Crimson Pirate' Deep-red flowers with golden midribs.


'Parfait' One of the best spider variants. Yellow and coral colour.


'Lois Burns' Fresh yellow blooms with vivid-green throat.


'Black Plush' Large, red-black flowers with orange throats.


'Patsy Bickers' Beige-pink flowers with a cream midrib.


'Long Stocking' Large, bright, red-tipped flowers.

OFFER NO. 1 [HEMSPI01]

Three bareroot plants

'Crimson Pirate'
'Parfait'
'Lois Burns'

£15
inc p&p

OFFER NO. 2 [HEMSPI02]

Six bareroot plants

'Crimson Pirate'
'Parfait'
'Lois Burns'
'Black Plush'
'Patsy Bickers'
'Long Stocking'

£25
inc p&p

Spring Inspiration

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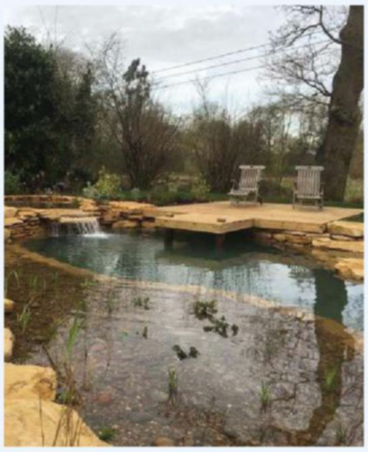

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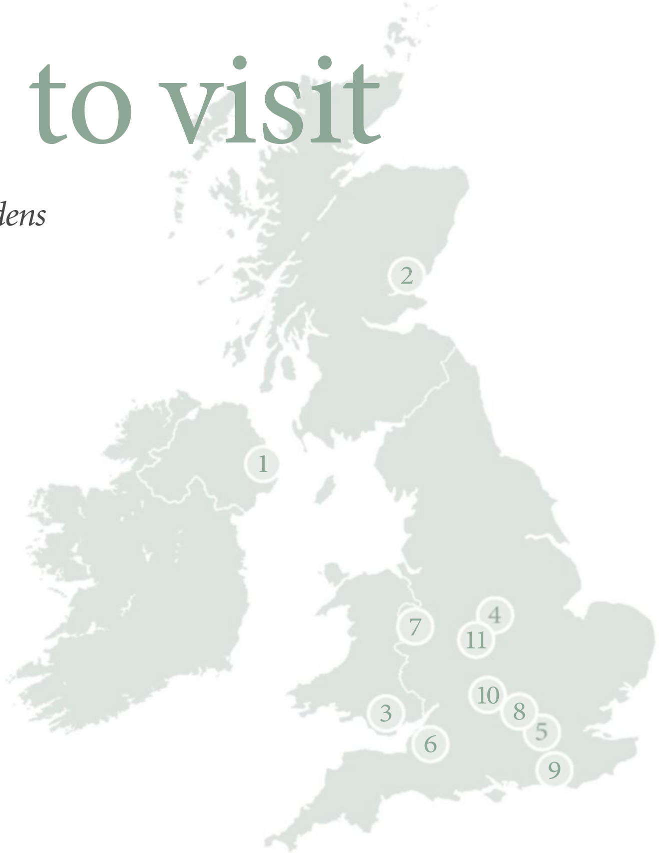
Ultra Bee
Naturally Bee Beautiful
Bzzy Hand Balm
Honey & Rose
100% Natural
With Propolis

Spring gardens to visit

Late spring is a great time to visit this collection of stunning gardens



1 MOUNT STEWART HOUSE AND GARDENS

Mount Stewart is predominately a woodland garden and at this time of year, a delight. Lady Londonderry, who created the garden nearly 100 years ago suffered incurably from 'Rhododendronitis' and a walk in spring-time is enriched by these gorgeous plants. Magnolias, cherries, camellias and daphnes also delight.

nationaltrust.org.uk/mount-stewart

2 GLAMIS CASTLE

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Glamis, Angus, Scotland DD8 1RJ | glamis-castle.co.uk | 01307 840393

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Cowbridge CF71 7BB | cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk | 01446 773659

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calkeabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk | nationaltrust.org.uk/calke | 01332 863822

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5 OSTERLEY PARK AND HOUSE

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Isleworth, London TW7 4RB | nationaltrust.org.uk/osterley-park | 020 8232 5050

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Wells, Somerset BA5 2PD | bishopspalace.org.uk | 01749 988111

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Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 4TP | nationaltrust.org.uk/attinghampark

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Kelmarsh, Northamptonshire NN6 9LY | kelmarsh.com | visitors@kelmarsh.com

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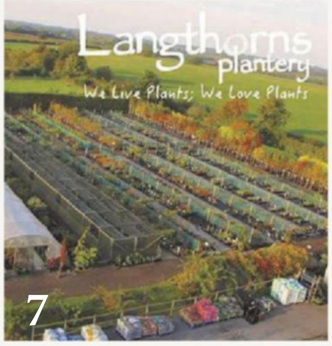

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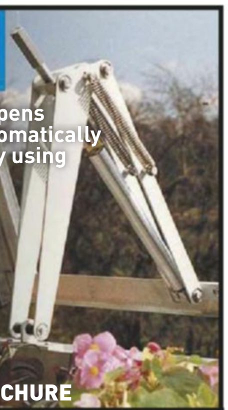

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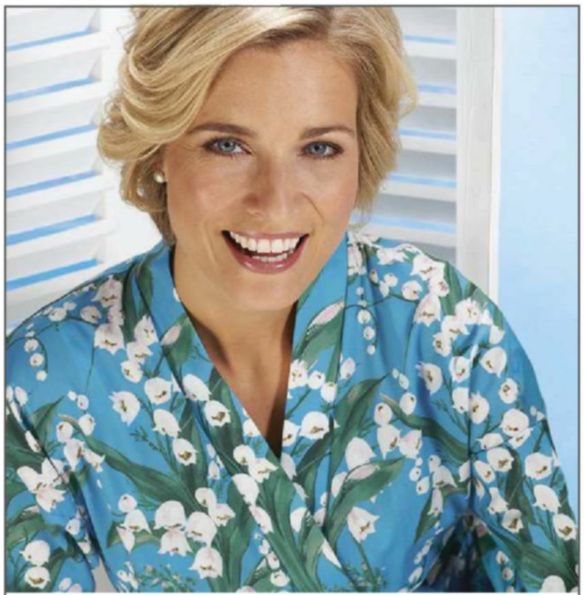

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Hall Place & Gardens, Bourne Rd, Bexley, Kent DA5 1PQ. Adm Free

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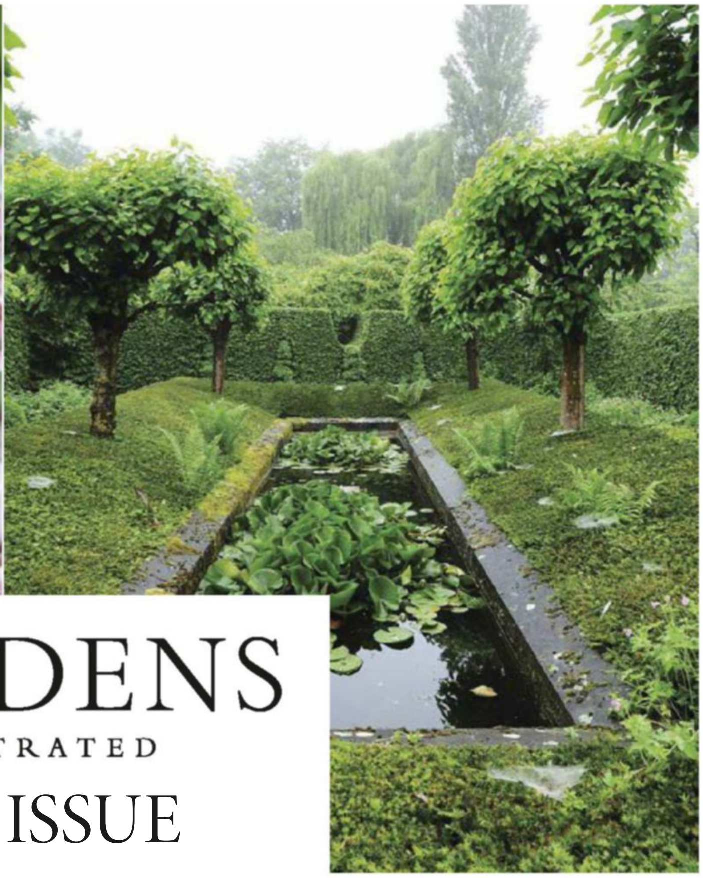

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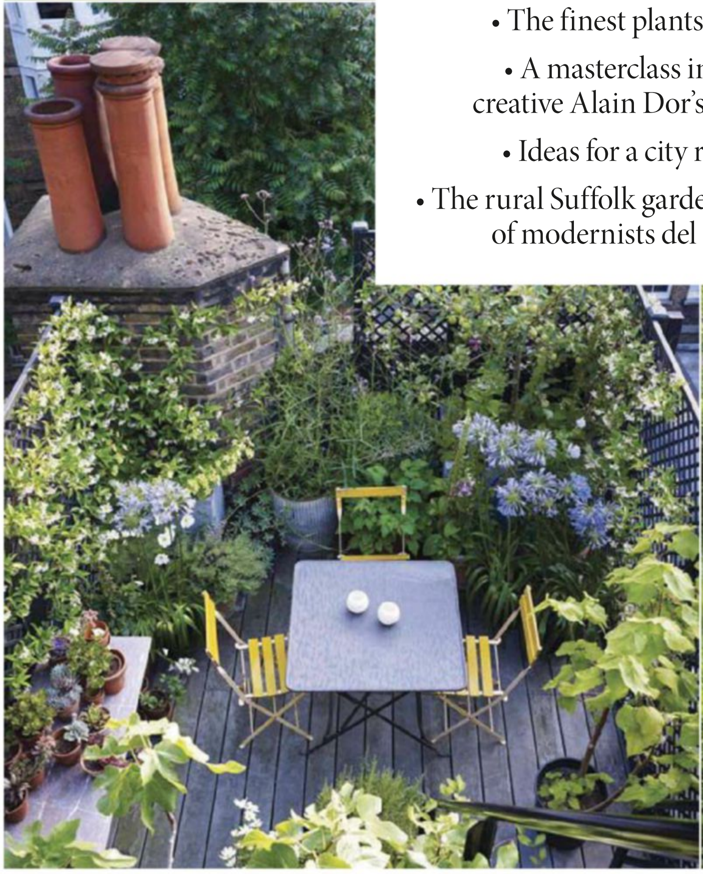

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WRITER’S PLOT

HUE AND CRY

After a rash decision, made while mourning the sad demise of ‘Madame Caroline Testout’, Frank learns to his cost that a pink by any other name does not necessarily smell or look as sweet

WORDS FRANK RONAN ILLUSTRATION RACHEL VICTORIA HILLIS

Pink is rose in other languages, as it was once in ours. The etymology of pink is cloudy. There is an old German word for striking or pecking which, drawing blood, may have drawn a description of the colour along with it. A more elaborate route between the same ends is more likely. The German *pinken* led to scalloped leather and pinking shears and perhaps the Middle English noticed that certain small carnations looked as though they had been treated in that way, so that pinks became pinks, as they still are to us (the more carnal carnation came later). In the seventeenth century painters began to apply the word to pale lake pigments. At the time dianthus flourished in paintings, so the connection is sound.

THIS YEAR IT IS MY DEAREST WISH THAT *ROSA* ‘ALOHA’ WILL CROAK HER LAST SALMON-INFECTED BREATH

It was a necessary innovation. Neither pale red nor rosy hue can justify this colour that is at once the most appeasing and the most shocking on the spectrum. While diluting red will get you something that might be called a pink, the great and interesting pinks were made by adding a little blue or purple or yellow or even brown. Painters worked that one out long before we gardeners could.

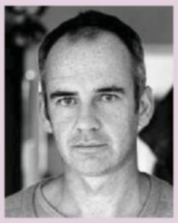
Now that May is here and the roses have begun their blowsy procession we are confronted by pink in all its delight and difficulty. The delights are obvious in a colour that evokes opiate clouds and cherubs and health and perfection. The difficulties, though more obscure, are there nonetheless. Not everyone wants to be suffocated in such a bosomy colour all the time. I have a neighbour who won’t abide any pink flowers in her garden at all (she also despises shoes and good wine, so may not be a great example).

Even for those of us who love pink unashamedly there must come a time when we differentiate between one pink and another and have our tolerance tested. In a border it won’t matter so much because you can take an absolute sow’s ear like *Incarvillea delavayi* and put the correct shade of orange next to it and have, perhaps not a silk purse but, something startling in an interesting way. On the most prominent corner of the house there is no remedy.

This year it is my dearest wish that *Rosa* ‘Aloha’ will croak her last salmon-infected breath. Other people, hearing me say this, as they often have over the years, tell me that they quite like ‘Aloha’. I bought ‘Aloha’ from a nurserywoman I trusted on the basis of such an assertion. I would have kept it in a pot until I had seen for myself, but a tragedy intervened. ‘Madame Caroline Testout’ whom I knew to be the most exquisite pink in existence was bought in the same batch and planted on the same corner. She was bare rooted and it was late in the season and I knew the risk, but that did nothing to mitigate the grief at her expiration, nor the stupidity of my reaction in immediately replacing her with the untested ‘Aloha’.

Of course ‘Aloha’ flourished for a while, as any unwanted plant will, but the years of absenteeism have seen a satisfying decline. That bed, in the dry shadow of the house, needed watering and didn’t get it. More happily still, a middle-ranking clematis, just far enough away not to have to worry about replant disease, has definitely shuffled off, making the perfect spot to reinvite Mme Testout. If ‘Aloha’ shows any inclination to linger, push may come to shove.

There are pinks proper in a frill at what will be her feet. They fritter out from the crack below the bottom of a stone tank, relishing the leaching lime. She will be preceded by *Clematis* ‘Elizabeth’, which is an unimpeachable pink, escorted by the subtlety of pink on the leaves of *Actinidia tetramera* var. *maloides* and superseded by the sparse delicacy of the flowers on the same plant. Her last hurrah will chime with *Bergenia* ‘Wintermärchen’. ‘Aloha’ was just out of that league.



Frank Ronan is a novelist who lives and gardens in Worcestershire.

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